

ANC will keep talking to de Klerk

Winnie Mandela sentenced to six years in jail

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela yesterday proclaimed his faith in his wife, while pledging that her sentence of six years in jail would not affect power-sharing negotiations with President de Klerk.

The African National Congress deputy president was speaking in Stellenbosch near Capetown, a thousand miles from the Johannesburg courtroom where Winnie Mandela was sentenced for her part in the kidnapping and assault of four black youths, one of whom died.

The woman revered as "the mother of the nation" was immediately released on bail of 200 rands (about £40), pending an appeal. Outside the court, she raised her arm in a clenched fist salute and told cheering supporters: "The struggle continues." A police helicopter hovered while officers and ANC marshals struggled to hold back the crowd as it joined Mrs Mandela shouting political slogans.

Inside the court, the severity of the sentence had brought

gasps of astonishment. Mr Justice Michael Stegmann, who on Monday branded Mandela a "calm, composed and unblinking liar", accused her of a complete lack of compassion. "You misunderstood or ignored the responsibilities which come to you as a leader."

He sentenced her to five years for kidnapping and to a further year for being an accessory to the assault on four anti-apartheid activists who were beaten, kicked and whipped in the back of her Soweto home in December, 1988. Xoliswa Faleni, a housekeeper, was also jailed for six years, and John Morgan, a driver, was given a one-year sentence, suspended for five years. The judge said there was no indication that any of them felt the slightest remorse.

Last night Mr Mandela told reporters: "The last word on the matter has not been spoken. I have never believed that she was guilty of assaulting anyone. Judgment of the court has confirmed this. My faith in her has been vindicated. We trust that soon her name will be cleared completely."

The ANC leader called on everyone to leave the matter to the courts, an apparent appeal to the ANC's military wing, which had threatened mass protest action if the verdict went against Mandela.

The sentence would not influence talks with Mr de Klerk, Mr Mandela said. "The case has no direct relevance to the negotiation process. The question is whether the government is going to conform with the set of demands we have set." Mr Mandela has threatened to suspend talks if action, including a ban on traditional Zulu weapons, is not taken to quell township violence by tomorrow.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu expressed surprise at the severity of the sentence, but echoed Mr Mandela's appeal to people to wait for the outcome of an appeal. "The movement will continue and will honour her for the good things which she did and recognise that human beings are human beings," he said.

The 45-day trial at Rand Supreme Court arose from the abduction of three men and a boy from a Methodist church manse in 1988, while Mr Mandela was in prison. The judge said that Mandela and Felalet had orchestrated the kidnapping as part of a smear campaign against a white minister at the church. Once at Mandela's home, the four were beaten and whipped on

suspicion of engaging in homosexual activities or spying for police.

The body of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, aged 14, was found in a ditch days later and Jerry Richardson, one of the team of bodyguards known as Mandela United Football Club, has been sentenced to death for his murder.

Calling for Mandela to be jailed, the chief prosecutor, Jan Swanspoel, said that her moral "blamelessness" was much higher than that of her co-accused because of her leadership position. But Mandela's lawyer, George Bizos, argued that she should be treated leniently since she was not present at the time of the kidnappings. Her role was at best a technical one and her degree of participation was minimal, he said.

Mandela, who has spent many of the past thirty years jailed, banned or banished, has seen her reputation crumble over the past few years. She was repudiated by exiled ANC leaders in 1986 after declaring that blacks would liberate South Africa with "matches and neckties". Two years later, her home was burnt down by black youths in an attack aimed at the Mandela United Football Club, which was subsequently disbanded on orders issued by Mr Mandela from his prison cell.

Last month, Mandela was convincingly beaten in an election for the presidency of the ANC women's league and it is now being suggested that she should resign as the ANC's head of social welfare.

Legal observers expressed surprise last night that Mandela had been granted bail. They said it seemed most unusual, but the fact that the judge had postponed the hearing on her application for leave to appeal had to be taken into account.

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Nelson Mandela: "My faith in her is vindicated"



Freedom's friends: George Bush stepping aside yesterday to allow the Queen, wearing a purple dress and hat designed by Sir Hardy Amies, to address the crowd at the formal welcoming ceremony at the White House

A royal star in a striped boater

FROM PETER STOTHARD
US EDITOR
IN WASHINGTON

TO AMERICAN eyes it was the Old Guard meeting the old guard as the Queen began her state visit to Washington yesterday.

The American Old Guard were the revolutionary pipe-and-drummers who welcomed her to the White House south lawn. The British Old Guard were the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh themselves.

The Queen greeted President Bush with delight that he was "in the best of health" — which was gracious, if not wholly true. But all eyes in the crowd of soldiers, diplomats and well-connected children were on the Queen herself, the lady keeping Princess Di from Buckingham Palace, as one onlooker uncharitably remarked.

Because the arrival podium was arranged with a gift president in mind, TV viewers saw little of the Queen, dressed in a purple and white Hardy Amies dress and jacket, except a large talking hat — a Beef-eater-style striped boater. But in the crowd the presence of the monarch seemed to work its usual magic. She recalled her first visit to America to meet Harry Truman in 1951, a trip which "made such an impression I can hardly believe that so many years have slipped past".

Here was a head of state who encouraged Truman about the continuing special relationship after the war, who

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Hospital job losses claim denied by Waldegrave

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NHS hospital trusts threaten the jobs of only a tiny fraction of their staff, William Waldegrave insisted yesterday as the government came under growing pressure from Labour over its health service reforms in advance of tomorrow's Monmouth by-election.

The health secretary said that a departmental survey of the 57 trusts that have opted out of health authority control pointed to net job losses of 200 among a total workforce of 100,000. While some trusts were shedding staff many others were expanding.

Mr Waldegrave's staunch defence of the health reforms steadied backbench Tory nerves after ferocious attacks by Neil Kinnock and Robin Cook, the Opposition's chief health spokesman.

Mr Cook later sought to raise the stakes by maintaining that the voters of Monmouth would make the by-election a referendum on the NHS reforms. He argued that the reforms were so unpopular with the public that they made the poll tax look like a runaway success.

But in a clinical dissection of Labour's policies Mr Waldegrave brushed aside its call for a halt to the second wave of more than 100 NHS trusts and accused it of relying on scare stories to advance its case. The health secretary argued that both the record and the current muddle over Labour's spending plans meant that it could not win the argument on NHS resources. Labour was simply defending vested interests and

a system designed in the late 1940s. Mr Waldegrave made no apology for the reductions in waiting times achieved by fund-holding GPs. While Labour wanted to halt them, he wanted to spread these benefits to the rest of the population.

Labour has moved into a 6 per cent national lead over the Conservatives, according to an ICM poll in *The Guardian* today. It gives Labour 43 per cent, the Conservatives 37 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 16 per cent.

Reforms attacked, page 6

Brooke sets one-day deadline for talks

By TIM JONES

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, said last night that his initiative on the political future of the province will be abandoned today unless party leaders accept his ultimatum on where the talks will be held.

After five frustrating and fruitless days, Mr Brooke presented the four party leaders with a document spelling out where the venue for the second phase of the talks, involving the Irish government, should take place.

The party leaders left Stormont with the clear understanding that if his ultimatum is rejected the whole peace

process will be abandoned. Mr Brooke said last night that he had used his "best endeavours and efforts" to reach a compromise on the differences which separated the parties and the document represented his final position. "I don't see a way forward beyond that, because I think we would have exhausted the practical possibilities."

It is understood that the document envisages the first round of peace talks taking part in London and then moving for substantive discussions in Northern Ireland with the process ending in Dublin.

How the SAS took out the Scuds — by Major

The prime minister has broken his silence about the special forces' Gulf war role.
Michael Evans reports

The SAS, operating behind enemy lines in Iraq during the Gulf war, successfully destroyed mobile Scud missile launchers, according to John Major.

The prime minister's unprecedented reference to the SAS is the first official acknowledgment of what the service was doing during the war.

There has been much speculation over SAS operations, after it became clear that five of its men were taken prisoner and four were killed. There are known to have been several "fire-fights" between the SAS and Iraqi forces. The five captured SAS men were repatriated.

The Scud-hunting operations were referred to by Mr Major when speaking to guests at a dinner hosted by Benjamin Pearl, an Anglo-Israeli businessman who has a factory in the prime minister's Huntingdon constituency. His comments appeared yesterday in Israeli newspapers.

Mr Major confessed that he had been particularly worried about the Iraqi Scud missile attacks against Israel during the war. "I lost a lot of sleep over them," Mr Major was reported to have said. "I was always woken once they were in the air. But I would not get too neurotic about them, even though they were aimed at you. The main thing that the war showed was how inaccurate they were."

He then went on to reveal details of the secret war fought by Britain's special forces "working behind enemy lines" during the two-month conflict.

"I'll tell you who destroyed the Scuds: it was the British SAS," he said. "They were fabulous."

Although he gave no further details, the SAS teams who entered Iraq once the

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

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Heather Kirby slips on a soft drink in recognition of the growing tendency towards "dry" lunches in the business world Page 23

PEOPLE

Joe Joseph wonders why MPs — so keen to hurl personal invective in the House — are so thin-skinned outside it Page 14

POLITICS

Conor Cruise O'Brien says that moves to bring peace to both Israel and Ulster will fail because of territorial demands Page 14

INSIDE

Lifers' decision

Ministers are to bow to the European Court of Human Rights by giving up their right to release prisoners serving life for offences such as rape and manslaughter Page 2

Communists win

Red flags fluttered in Kathmandu yesterday as the communists won the capital in Nepal's first elections in 32 years Page 9

ICI share surge

Shares in ICI, Britain's biggest industrial company, surged 7p to a year's high of £11.58 following a hostile raid on its shares from an unidentified buyer Page 12

Palace tenants

Emblem football club are to share Crystal Palace's ground at Selhurst Park for seven years Page 40

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'Hurt' Currie awarded £5,000 libel damages

By LIN JENKINS

EDWINA Currie was awarded £5,000 yesterday by a High Court jury who accepted her claim that she was insulted and deeply hurt over an article in *The Observer* magazine. She had been likened to a character in a film who put political gain above her family, took a young lover, ignored her son and resorted to murder.

The Conservative MP for South Derbyshire, who left the

Government over the salmonella-in-eggs controversy, said she never objected to comments about her political ability or style, but drew the line at remarks reflecting upon her role as a wife and mother.

Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer*, said he was unlikely to appeal.

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Empty victory, page 14

Give us back our missionary, the crofters cry

By KERRY GILL

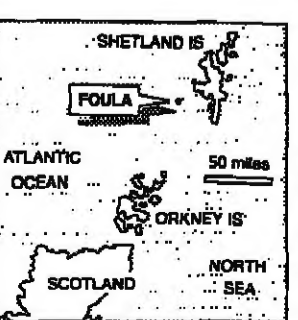
THE 42 inhabitants of Foula, Britain's most remote inhabited island, have lost their missionary and they want him back. A crofter will set off this week from the island, 25 miles west of Shetland, to plead with the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh for his return.

The idea of missionaries in the far-flung corners of the Scottish islands was introduced to provide Christian teaching as well as education to small communities that could not otherwise support a full-time minister and teacher. Foula had enjoyed the services of a missionary, usually a lay preacher and teacher, for decades until the church decided

that the island would be better served by visiting ordained ministers.

None of the islanders, whose average age is 32, belongs to the Church of Scotland. But they say they might be left to bury their own dead, and the loss of the missionary could erode other vulnerable services.

Isobel Holbourn, who arrived on Foula in 1956, when her father became the island's missionary, said: "Foula is in the open Atlantic. We have a small 40ft ferry boat which can only approach the pier in good weather and a gravel airstrip that we built ourselves. A plane can only land when the weather is exactly right because of cross-winds."



"If someone dies, and a minister cannot come because of the weather, we will have to bury our dead ourselves," she said.

"It means we must be undertaker and grave digger. It is a very real possibility. A missionary cannot marry, christen or hold communion,

but at least he can officiate at a burial."

The General Assembly of the Church has agreed to hear her plea for reinstatement of a missionary during its annual gathering next week in Edinburgh. To deliver her address on Tuesday, Mrs Holbourn will leave Foula on Friday, weather permitting.

The Rev John Russell, in charge of the committee that deals with deployment of church servants, said that it had become increasingly difficult to make joint appointments. A person might be suitable as a teacher, but not as a missionary. Foula would be visited by two ordained ministers from Shetland who would attempt to establish a

lay leadership on the island that could "hold the fort if storms rage... we want to encourage some of them to become elders or auxiliary ministers who can offer back-up when no minister can get over from the mainland."

Mr Russell said there were no members of the church on Foula and as few as two islanders would attend Sunday worship. The islanders' argument that they were being denied the opportunity of regular worship was flawed.

Mrs Holbourn said: "We are not members on paper but we are totally committed to the church. People believe that what is in their hearts, and their obvious practical commitment, is what counts."

Esquire

MAN AT HIS BEST

NAKED LUNCHES

Ellen Barkin on love, life and sex scenes

Melvin Bragg unmasks London's rich and decadent in an exclusive new serial

Cross-dressing in Chelsea by Victor Lewis-Smith

The women and wars of King Hussein

Antique watches and brand-new suits

PLUS A NEW MONTHLY SPORTS COLUMN BY GORDON BURN

OUT NOW

St Paul's hopes charge of £2 will not put off its 2.5m visitors



Kennet: it smacks of the money changers

ST PAUL'S Cathedral, which faces a £400,000 deficit this year, has after much heart-searching announced that from June 1 it is to impose a £2 admission charge on the estimated 2.5 million tourists who annually pass through its great west door.

The decision brought the immediate resignation of the author and politician Lord Kennet from the court of advisers to the dean and chapter of the cathedral. He has consistently campaigned against the charge, and said yesterday that the cathedral authorities had failed to pursue alternative funding either from the government or from the church's wealthy parishioners in the City of London.

One of the five most-visited

buildings in England, St Paul's becomes only the second English cathedral after Ely to impose a fixed entrance charge, although others such as Salisbury apply varying degrees of moral pressure to extract voluntary contributions.

Lord Kennet, a member of the court of advisers for the past eight years and an authority on London's churches, said that he was distressed by the decision that there should not be "free entry to what is after all the House of God at all times. It smacks of the money changers in the Temple courtyard. It means we are the first European country to charge for admission to the body of our national cathedrals. St Paul's was after all built at the taxpayers' expense, with a coal tax levied for

Alan Hamilton and Paul Wilkinson report on why the decision to charge an entrance fee at Wren's great monument has already led to the resignation of Lord Kennet

that purpose. I do not propose that the taxpayer should foot the whole bill, but he could help."

The Very Rev Eric Evans, dean of St Paul's, and his chapter took the decision after consultations with the City accountants Coopers and Lybrand as the only practical way of stemming a rapidly growing deficit. To avoid charging *bona fide* worshippers, the cathedral will open its Middlesex chapel all day free of charge through a separate entrance, and

charges to the main cathedral will be lifted by the time daily evening services begin at 5 pm. There will be no charge on Sundays, and there will be a free period when the doors first open at 7.15 on weekday mornings.

Additional charges to view certain parts of the cathedral, like the whispering gallery, will remain but will be reduced. In future it will cost a total of £4 to visit all parts of the building instead of the present £5.50. If

present tourist levels, with 11,000 visitors on a recent Saturday, hold up, St Paul's expects to make about £3 million a year on the door. But if the experience of the Victoria and Albert Museum, whose visitors dropped by 40 per cent when it began charging, is repeated then admission charge income will drop to £1.7 million and the cathedral books will still be marginally in the red at the end of next year.

Cathedrals, Mr Evans said, should be places of excellence, and £4 million worth of capital expenditure was needed on the fabric. Materials were becoming increasingly expensive; they had recently paid £88,000 for marble to repair the floor. Labour costs for the cathedral's 135 full and

part-time staff were also rising inexorably. Running costs were £3.5 million a year and St Paul's could not even afford at present to employ sufficient cleaners to keep down the dust.

Although the government has recently set aside £11 million over three years as a contribution to maintenance, the money has to be spread over 62 cathedrals and St Paul's expects to see little or none of it.

Among tourists on the great steps of St Paul's yesterday, there seemed little objection to paying. Mrs Karen McMahon, from Melbourne, Australia, on her first visit to Britain, said: "I would gladly pay to see this; it is magnificent, breathtaking, beyond comprehension."

Ministers to give up right on release of life-termers

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are to bow to the European Court of Human Rights by surrendering their right to release prisoners serving life sentences for offences such as rape, arson and manslaughter, it emerged yesterday.

The decision will be made known today in an attempt by ministers to persuade peers to accept a government amendment re-introducing the mandatory life term for murder.

Last month the Lords voted by a resounding majority to abolish the automatic penalty in the report stage of the criminal justice bill.

A government amendment to be tabled today will propose that, where judges impose life terms for offences other than murder, they should state the minimum term they feel should be served. The amendment will also propose that the power to release such offenders should be vested in an independent tribunal, which ministers believe should be the parole board.

However, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, strongly believes ministers should retain the right to release so-called mandatory lifers, who comprise about two-thirds of the 2,600 offenders serving life in English and Welsh prisons. Ministers hope the timing of their response to the European Court judgment last October will improve the chances of them holding the line on the mandatory term. Many peers however believe the government should have complied with the judgment more quickly, and are unlikely to be impressed.

The Strasbourg court accepted a complaint lodged by three British lifers, convicted of offences other than murder, who said it was wrong that the executive should have the final say over whether they should be released. They also claimed it was unjust that Home Office ministers should be able to increase or reduce the "tariff" recommended by the trial judge.

Many peers including, it is understood, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, believe Home Office ministers should also lose the right to release mandatory lifers.

Peers voted to repeal the mandatory penalty for murder after being told by Lord Lane that sentencers had to be able to distinguish between the varying types of murderer that appeared before them. They passed an amendment empowering courts to impose determinate sentences.

Staff at Cardiff prison began a work-to-rule yesterday to highlight conditions that prompted the governor to declare a full alert last weekend and to draft in an anti-riot squad after an escape attempt was foiled. The decision to send in a control and restraint squad provides fresh evidence of tension that has re-emerged in some prisons as a result of new disputes over manning. Formal disputes affect 39 of the 123 jails.

Yesterday staff at Cardiff agreed to hold a ballot over the next few weeks on whether to "lock out" inmates to reduce overcrowding.

Anti-NHS adverts censured

By PAUL WILKINSON

EMOTIVE advertisements used in the campaign to win compensation for haemophiliacs infected with Aids by contaminated blood transfusions have been censured by the Advertising Standards Authority.

It upheld a complaint from a consultant physician at an Edinburgh HIV unit that the advertisement, produced for the Haemophilia Society, could suggest that the National Health Service was responsible for the infection. The advertisement showed a close-up of a young boy with the message superimposed: "Hereditarily gave him haemophilia. Then the NHS gave him HIV."

The doctor maintained that the advertisement suggested that the NHS was to blame for blood transfusions infected with the HIV virus, but the infected blood was imported before any link was made between Aids and contaminated blood products. Most of the patients concerned were infected before any preventive action could have been taken by the NHS or anyone else.

The Haemophilia Society has campaigned for compensation for 1,200 haemophiliacs who contracted HIV in the 1980s after NHS transfusions of blood imported from the United States. About 210 of the haemophiliacs developed Aids and more than 140 have died.

The society insisted there was no inference in the advert, which no longer appears, that the NHS had been negligent.

The authority also chastises mail order advertisers for failing to heed its warning last year about "hyping" their products. Then the ASA said there was only a short step between "harmless puffery" and misleading exaggeration.



Lord Kaberry: died after IRA bomb attack

Peer was unlawfully killed

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LORD Kaberry of Adel, the Tory peer who died nine months after being badly hurt in the IRA bomb attack on the Carlton club, was unlawfully killed, a coroner ruled yesterday.

Philip Gill, the West Yorkshire coroner, said that the medical evidence showed that the bombing played a "material part in the ultimate cause of his death".

The inquest at Leeds was told how the 83-year-old peer was weakened by the injuries he suffered in the bombing. At the time of the attack Lord Kaberry, a former Conservative MP for Leeds North-West and vice-chairman of the Conservative party, was considered to be generally fit and healthy, in spite of having diabetes.

The inquest had been adjourned in March for fresh evidence on how the bomb had affected his health. Yesterday, the coroner said that the cause of death was chronic kidney failure due to diabetes and that brain damage following multiple injuries sustained in the bombing had played a role.

Half-way through a lifetime of TV showings

By DAVID YOUNG AND KERRY GILL

AS THEY reach the half-way point in their allotted three score years and ten, the men and women who first appeared as seven-year-old boys and girls in the television documentary *Seven Up* are to reappear on the screen to reveal how their ambitions have been met and changed.

On May 22 Granada is to screen *35 Up*, which will show what has happened to the randomly selected group of 14 whose lives have been chronicled at seven-year intervals since they first appeared in May 1964.

The documentary series, which has been copied in the United States and Russia, charts how they have achieved the targets they set for themselves at the age of seven and how they have changed.

Claire Lewis, the series editor, said: "The programme appeals so much because we have a cross-section of British society. They were picked initially for class and educational background, and what we have is a group who between them represent the hopes and fears and dreams and aspirations of every member of the public. They're not stars, or politicians, and they're not dealing in campaigns or selling something. It's about our lives."

Michael Apted, the director and producer, said: "Our process is hardly scientific, more a complicated and sometimes bewildering array of private moments set against the cultural and social background of the times."

Three of those who have lasted the course are Jackie, Lynn and Sue, who first appeared as schoolgirls in London's East End.

At seven Lynn said: "I'm going to work in Woolworths." At 28 she said: "I've got no seething ambition to go out and conquer the world."

Jackie at seven said: "I would like to get married when I grow up. I don't know what sort of boy, but I think one that's not got a lot of money but he has got some money." At 28 she said: "I don't think we consciously think about class until this programme comes up every seven years."

Perhaps the person whose ambitions have changed most, however, is Neil Hughes, a Liverpool schoolboy who wanted to be an astronaut. Failing that, he would drive buses. In the event he did neither, and after dropping out of Aberdeen university he drifted through life unsure of his purpose until he found himself living in the community of Walls on the western fringe of the Shetland mainland.

Seven years ago Neil was



Four girls of three: Jackie, Lynn and Sue now, with producer Michael Apted



Seven years ago: Michael Apted embracing Jackie, Lynn and Sue at the age of 28



Teenagers: Jackie, Lynn and Sue, when they appeared 21 years ago, aged 14



The start of it all: Jackie, Lynn and Sue make their first appearance on television

content to refer to himself as an eccentric, a description that he still considers valid. He lives in a council flat on social security, writing plays that he realises may never be published on an old typewriter.

In *35-Up* Neil says that his middle-class upbringing on Merseyside left him feeling that he was part of a very impersonal society. Having settled in Walls, that perception is likely to change; it is as close and supportive a community as anyone could wish to find, where a loner like Neil

might find inner acceptance. He has come some way since he was seen aged 28 on the edge of a Scottish loch, aimless, with little to do, next to no money and feeling let down by society. He has been in Walls for about four years and yesterday left for a holiday in Yugoslavia. Thelma Reid, who runs the post office, said he was a likeable man who enjoyed amateur dramatics. One play he directed won a cup in a local festival.

The Rev Geoffrey Howarth, the Methodist minister, said

that Neil was a regular attendant at his church. "He has settled all right. He often goes away on trips. He is not a rich man, but he is making his way to Yugoslavia and when his money runs out he will just come back. He is very hard working. He takes an active part in the community, giving people assistance if they need it and is in the drama group. He seems happy enough."

It looks as if Neil, reportedly a reluctant star these days, may miss the viewing next Wednesday.

Squeegee gangs face lordly dismay

By JOHN WINDER

THE young people who dash through London's traffic jams with wash-leather and squeegee to clean car windcreens do not meet with universal approval.

Those who operate on the Embankment near the Palace of Westminster may soon find themselves face-to-face with opposition in the shape of an elderly peer brandishing a walking stick.

The question of how best to deal with the gangs, who were accused of making threatening gestures when their services were rejected, was considered yesterday in the House of Lords.

Lady Oppenheim-Barnes, a former Conservative minister, describing the unwelcome attention of the cleaners, said: "A torso suddenly comes in front of the windscreen, followed by a wave of grey water totally obliterating the driver's view."

There was laughter when Earl Ferrers, Home Office minister, replied: "It is not illegal to offer services in the street so long as it is not for gain or reward." However, to obstruct the

highway or to use threatening or insulting behaviour was a criminal offence; there were no plans to make windscreen cleaning itself an offence.

The most effective advice offered came from Lord Nugent of Guildford, a former transport minister, who suggested that Earl Ferrers had expert knowledge that could be put to use in setting about importuners with a walking stick.

Earl Ferrers, who some time ago gave an intruder at his home a warm reception, replied that it might be useful to make such a reply on appropriate occasions. He disclosed, however, that his experience in those matters was wider than had been realised and that recently he had been intimidated by a beggar who had pushed the 6ft 6in former soldier when he would not surrender a pound.

Lord Stoddart of Swindon (Lab) said that since he first complained about the nuisance last year, it had got worse and now gangs of eight or nine men were

roaming in pursuit of their business, using threatening gestures when their services were rejected. The police had powers to deal with this awful business. Earl Ferrers agreed.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, former Lord Chancellor, was anxious that the gangs should not add to the two million criminal offences now in existence.

Lady Nicol, a diminutive Labour peer, said that she felt threatened by the aggressive gang on the Embankment in the evenings, but one could not pin down their behaviour. Earl Ferrers agreed and drew a parallel with the old army offence of "dumb insolence", equally difficult to pin down.

Lord Richard (Lab) advised that the police should be invited to exercise a little discretion with the gangs and Earl Ferrers welcomed the suggestion.

A cautionary note came from Lord Tordoff (Lib Dem). When the House of Lords was finally closed, he said, they might all be seeking jobs as cleaners.

Tardy electricity companies must pay £10 penalty

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY companies will have to pay £10 compensation for failing to keep an appointment with a customer under performance standards announced yesterday by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the Director General of Electricity Supply.

The compensation arrangements are part of a package of consumer rights taking effect on July 1. Professor Littlechild said he was backing his performance standards with a range of financial penalties to give companies stronger incentives to provide a better service.

The compensation payments form the first stage in a long-term strategy that he has adopted to improve customer standards and choice. He is urging companies to begin experiments with "intelligent" electricity meters, which by 1998 should let households adjust consumption in response to daily price variations and buy their power from the cheapest supplier.

However, Professor Littlechild's first thrust has been directed at performance. In the nine months to last December, the Office of Electricity Regulation and its consumers' committees dealt with 10,567 complaints.

The guaranteed standards cover nine services provided by the 14 electricity supply companies in England, Wales and Scotland. Details of each company's performance against the standards will be published every year.

Domestic customers will be entitled to payments of £10 or

£20 for any failure by companies to respond to a range of requests for service within specified periods. Business customers will receive payments of up to £50. Supply companies that fail to restore power within 24 hours of a breakdown will incur severe penalties unless the cause is widespread severe weather.

● Prospects of a higher pay offer grew for 70,000 manual workers in the electricity supply industry yesterday after employees in two trade unions rejected an 8.9 per cent deal (Philip Bassett writes).

Members of the EETPU electricians union, the biggest in the industry, rejected the offer by 13,206 to 10,460, while AEU officials said that their 5,000 engineering workers had voted 2-1 against. Three other unions declare results on Friday.

North tops death rate in Britain

Lung cancer deaths among women are 41 per cent higher in the North than the national average, according to the latest government statistics (Jill Sherman writes).

Figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys also show that deaths in the region from heart disease were 19 per cent more than average for men and 26 per cent higher for women. Lung cancer deaths for men were 29 per cent above average.

Overall death rates in these areas in 1989 were 11 per cent to 13 per cent above the national average, while the mortality rates of people in East Anglia, the South-East and the South-West were 7 per cent to 9 per cent lower than average. Mortality rates for heart disease and male lung cancer deaths are also high in the West Midlands.

Dumping of carcasses 'must end'

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

CALLS for urgent action to stop farmers dumping dead animals in the countryside will be heard today in a Lords debate on the future of the ailing knacker trade. One in four knacker businesses has closed in the past 18 months.

Baroness Masham of Iton, who requested the debate, said yesterday: "The situation is very serious. I shall be asking the government what it proposes doing to help those facing increasing difficulty in the hygienic disposal of fallen livestock." The Commons agriculture select committee is to hold a separate enquiry next month.

Farmers have traditionally made a modest income out of selling their diseased, injured or aged animals to the knackerman. Countries on the Continent employ publicly funded officials to remove "casualty" animals.

Until last year, knackers would pay farmers up to £50 for a cow and £25 for a calf and would take away pigs and sheep for free. Knackers would sell the hides for leather and the meat as petfood and sell the rest to renderers for making into tallow and bone-meal for animal feed.

Renderers would pay up to £60 a ton for bones and £40 a ton for offal. Now they are charging to take animal remains away and the knackers are trying to pass the cost on to farmers, charging up to £40 for removal of a cow.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, has rejected requests for financial assistance and told farmers to bury fallen livestock on their own land, at least a metre deep and away from water, dwellings, roads, footpaths, pipes and cables. That can be difficult, especially in areas where a shallow layer of soil covers hard rock. Some hard-pressed farmers have taken to dumping dead animals in ditches, beside country lanes, or even on other farmers' land, after cutting off the ear-tags to prevent identification.

Luck prevailed

Only a combination of circumstances prevented widespread damage to the estuary of the Mersey after the 1989 oil spill, for which Shell UK was later fined £1 million, according to a report published by the Mersey oil spill project. The type of oil, state of tides, wind and time of year came together to minimise damage to the estuary, of international importance for wild birds.

Action dropped

Legal action against the Independent Television Commission for allegedly failing to see that Channel 4 balanced three programmes dealing with opposition to the Gulf War, *Cabinet*, *The Gulf Between Us* and *He'll No, We Won't Go*, has been dropped. The Freedom Association argued that the ITC breached broadcasting impartiality rules, but learned that the appropriate part of the act comes into force only in 1993.

Diplomat's trial

Terence Evans, aged 48, of Chobham Road, Frimley, Surrey, accused of false accounting and stealing from the British High Commissioner in Jamaica, where he was first secretary, was committed for trial at Southwark crown court by Bow Street magistrates yesterday.

Quins born

A woman has given birth quintuplets - four girls; boy - in a Belfast ho. The family, from Bant Co Down, did not wish identified.

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Currie says libel win is worth gibe on underwear

By LIN JENKINS

EDWINA Currie, who was awarded £5,000 damages in the High Court yesterday, said her action against *The Observer* newspaper was worth while in spite of having been forced to admit she had stockings in her wardrobe.

She said that although her views on undergarments such as basques and shortie nighties had been sought in court she had scored a victory for women in public life that would help more women stand for election to the House of Commons.

Mrs Currie paid tribute to her husband during the two-day hearing, saying that he was courageous, as a naturally quiet person, to allow his private life to be scrutinised in court.

The case against *The Observer* and Donald Trefford, its editor, concerned an article in the paper's magazine in May 1989 about the film *Paris by Night*, in which Charlotte Rampling played the thrusting, ambitious Euro MP Clara Paige, described as one of the new breed of Tory women.

The jury dismissed suggestions by counsel for *The Observer* and editor Donald Trefford, George Carman, QC, that she was simply bringing the action to generate publicity after fading from the limelight after her resignation as a junior minister over the controversy of salmonella in eggs.

Mr Carman said that since Mrs Currie was referred to only in the context as a new Tory woman, and not the model for the character in the film, the case was "far removed from reality and a proper libel case as to be laughable". He said that Mrs Currie flaunted a little of herself. "Not many women MPs would talk about suspenders and basques and shortie nighties. She added a little spice to political life."

Richard Hartley, QC, for Mrs Currie, told the jury that the defence had delivered the "most eloquent, nasty, hatchet job character assassination you ever heard in this court".

He rejected suggestions by Mr Carman that she was a woman who lectured everybody on health matters and morals and then chose to put the spotlight on a single line in an article about a film which had not been there before. He added that a suggestion that the article might affect her chances of regaining Derbyshire South at the next general election was "one of the most far-fetched claims you have ever heard in these courts".

He described Mrs Currie as "a bright lady, no flies on her, a tough lady used to the public arena, she is used to public debate, she is used to the hustings, she is used to political speeches, she did not stop yesterday in telling us

about her good work in South Derbyshire — no shrinking violet here. She does not hide her talents under a bushel, she displays them for all to see. That is her image and it is a successful one."

Mrs Currie said after yesterday's victory that although she was willing to take criticism and jibes over her political life, the innuendo that she was a poor mother and wife was deeply hurtful. She said that in her political role there was a forum where she could reply. Yet politicians, and women in particular, did not have the opportunity to protect themselves and the family.

Her case, she said, would make newspapers think more clearly of the references made to women MPs. The ridicule under cross-examination about her undergarments was worth it for the final outcome, she added.

Mrs Currie, whose costs, estimated at under £20,000, would be met by the newspaper, said she had never before brought a libel action and would have settled for a suitable apology in the newspaper over the article, which merely showed that they were being "a little bit silly".

Mr Trefford said afterwards that he was disappointed at the outcome although it was unlikely that the paper would appeal.

Plans to change the libel laws, extending protection available to printers, were announced last night by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern.

He said in a Lords written reply that he considered there should have been a defence against claims based on libellous content of which they could not have been aware. The proposals would extend to them the defence of innocent dissemination at present available to distributors.

Joe Joseph, page 14



Sacred and profane: a protestor from Milton Keynes outside Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, while inside an arms salesman guards his gleaming products



Almost a farewell to arms as defence industry faces hard times

THERE were many strange bedfellows at the defence components and equipment exhibition yesterday. The Korean embassy military attaché pursued his interest in Challenger tanks in one aisle while the Bishop of Birmingham followed his conscience in another.

Exhibitors at the show, held in Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, were condemned in advance as merchants of death by CND, who labelled the show an arms fair that left a bad taste, coming so soon after the death and destruction of the Gulf War. However, the organisers, the Defence Manufacturers Association (DMA), protested that it was an exhibition of defence equipment and components at which it would be hard to find a single offensive

item. The association said its members were just trying to turn a honest penny at a difficult time for the £8 billion UK defence industry and had invited CND and three leading Birmingham churches to see for themselves in the hope of defining a potentially embarrassing row during the three-day show.

That was why the Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Mark Senter, colleagues from the Roman Catholic and Free churches, and representatives of CND and the Birmingham Campaign Against the Arms Trade were to be found there, touring the stands in the cavernous Hall 8 of the NEC with exhibitors from six countries whose companies make laser range finders, tank weaponry, specialist body armour

Craig Seton explains why the Bishop of Birmingham turned up at an arms exhibition

and camouflage, and other components with a less obvious connection with arms, including buckle makers, overboot manufacturers and a variety of precision instruments.

The bishop, on a rapid tour of the 200 stands, said that he and other clergymen were present to express their disquiet about the exhibition in the light of the destruction of the Gulf War and the damage done by

arms spending in third world countries, where millions were starving.

The bishop was guided around by exhibition organisers, who said that the industry was in difficulties because of the general recession and the diminished threat from the Warsaw Pact. The bishop said that was why he welcomed the initiative of firms that were diversifying into civilian manufacture.

Captain Jong-Ku Yoon, the military attaché at the Korean embassy, was escorting three Korean businessmen involved in component manufacture who, like him, had been impressed by the performance of the Challenger tank and other Allied weaponry in the Gulf War. Brigadier Brian Lowe, director general of the DMA, emphasised

that 20 exhibitors were seeking new civil applications for their products because of the reduction in the size of the defence industry in Europe.

One of the few weapons on show yesterday was at the stand of Muller and Co (England) from Shropshire. Trade delegates, the only people allowed into the exhibition, could see a 7.62mm chain gun, which it helps to manufacture, in co-operation with McDonnell Douglas. Jim Clifford, sales director, said the company was much more involved in components for civilian use, including car braking systems and jewellery. The company made 12 million car-piercing studs a year, he said. "We also make the gun that puts them in, but that is probably about as offensive as we get."

Ministers urged to fill gap of doubt on Sunday trade

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government came under renewed pressure yesterday to act swiftly to sort out disarray over Sunday trading laws after the House of Lords decided to refer the question to the European Court of Justice.

The decision by five law lords hearing a landmark appeal by the DIY chain B&Q could delay for up to two years a final ruling on the validity of trading restrictions under the Shops Act. The referral came on the second day of B&Q's appeal against a High Court

ruling upholding Sunday trading laws in England and Wales as valid and enforceable.

Opponents of Sunday opening were dismayed, and called for a statement of intention by the Attorney-General and the home secretary to seek nationwide injunctions to stop Sunday trading. David Blackmore, of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, said that until there was a clear ruling from the European Court, there was a "risk of anarchy" being caused by big companies undermining the law.

Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, said that the European Reform Group of Conservative MPs had asked the prime minister to raise the implications of the referral at the next European Council meeting.

Mr Blackmore urged local authorities to begin personal prosecutions against store directors for aiding and abetting, because policies were determined by head offices. During the Lords hearing, counsel for the Stoke-on-Trent and Norwich city councils, which oppose B&Q's appeal, had claimed that the company was trying to have the case sent to Europe to "put off the evil day for commercial reasons".

Afterwards, David Ramsden, retail services controller for B&Q, said that it was disappointed that the law lords had felt unable to decide the case themselves. "The one clear message that has come out is that those who have branded B&Q's 'Euro

defence' as spurious or dishonest now have to eat their words," Mr Ramsden said. "It is not just a protest for keeping our stores open on Sunday. We have a respectable and well-argued defence and that has now been recognised."

Lord Bridge, sitting with Lords Brandon, Goff, Ackner and Lowry, said at the hearing that, despite expert arguments made on behalf of the councils that the law was clear enough for the case to be decided there, they had concluded that a reference should be made to Luxembourg. Three questions of law will be sent to Luxembourg, seeking clarification of recent European Court rulings on Sunday trading.

Further hearing of B&Q's appeal was postponed until answers have been given, probably in 18 months' to two years' time. Later, Philip Eavis, who owns a furniture shop in Street, Somerset, and made a complaint that led to Mendip district council acting against B&Q's Glastonbury store, said that Sunday opening was unfair trading by big firms.

The law lords want guidance on whether the European Court's ruling in a Welsh case has been overruled by its decisions in French and Belgian Sunday trading cases, and on what criteria should be applied in deciding whether the effects of restrictions are in proportion to the Shops Act's purpose of ensuring that shopworkers are not put under pressure to work on Sundays.

Jackdaws in from the cold

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

STARLINGS still rule the roost, but jackdaws have figured for the first time in the list of Britain's ten most commonly sighted garden birds, according to a survey published by the Young Ornithologists' Club. The jackdaw, the smallest of the black crows, came in at number ten, displacing the collared dove.

Joan Childs, co-ordinator of the survey, said: "The jackdaw was not even in the top 20 garden birds in 1990. It was particularly common this year in Wales, coming as high as fourth in West Glamorgan. Colder weather elsewhere may have driven them there."

The only other top ten change was the rise of the chaffinch from fifth to fourth at the expense of the blackbird. Ms Childs said there was concern about a decline in sightings of the song thrush, which has not made the top ten for the past three years. This year it was at 16, down from 11 last year.

"We don't have any theories yet to explain this. It is one of the species we are monitoring," she said. "Generally, more people seem to be feeding birds in their gardens and the greater variety of bird food they can buy is attracting a wider range of birds."

Around 8,200 children took part in the survey throughout Britain, counting the numbers and species of birds seen in their gardens in a one-hour period in January.

Abducted cashier escapes

By PETER VICTOR

A 27-YEAR-OLD bank cashier who was abducted at gunpoint, bound and gagged, and held to ransom managed to free herself and raise the alarm, police said yesterday.

The woman, whose identity is not being disclosed, was accused by a man as she arrived for work at 8 on Monday morning. He threatened her with a handgun, ordered her back into her Fiesta hatchback car and drove her to a secluded rural area in Brentwood, Essex.

After tying her up and gagging her, he pushed the woman into the boot, drove to Brentwood railway station and parked the car. The man then telephoned branches of the Midland Bank, including the one where the woman worked, and demanded money — thought to be about £50,000.

He did not know that the woman had managed to escape. She had pushed down the folding rear seat and wiggled into the passenger compartment, from where she managed to open the door.

On Monday night a 46-year-old man was arrested in Regent Street, central London. He was being held last night at a Brentwood police station. An imitation revolver was recovered in the Brentwood area.

Essex police said that 50 police, including armed officers and experts on abduction, had taken part in the investigation and surveillance operations on Monday. Det Supt Geoff Payne, who led the investigation, said that the woman was unharmed other than being very shaken. "She

coped very well. I was very impressed." He said that she would receive counselling and support from the local victim support scheme and from Midland Bank's staff counsellors.

Details of the survey were given to the union's annual conference at Blackpool. The union plans to commission an independent survey for a government working group on bank raids to try to establish the physical and psychological effects on bank and building society workers.

Staff at the Leeds Permanent Building Society in Hamlet Court Road, Westcliffe, Essex, are to be offered counselling after being robbed three times in three weeks.

Short puts Kasparov and Karpov in shade

By RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short, Britain's highest rated chess grandmaster, has scored the greatest triumph of his career by capturing first prize in the Amsterdam competition, ahead of the reigning world champion, Garry Kasparov, and his perpetual challenger, Anatoly Karpov. Short, aged 26, from London, was unbeaten and shared first place with a third Russian, Valery Salov.

This is only the second time that Kasparov and Karpov have been outdistanced in the same event, and Short is the first English grandmaster to finish ahead of Kasparov in a tournament.

Short's play was marked by great daring and an uncanny ability to avoid defeat in difficult situations. He has achieved perhaps the greatest tournament success by a Briton since international chess competitions were inaugurated in 1851, in London. To tie for first place, Short had to avoid some hideous pitfalls set for him in the needle game against Karpov,



Short: greatest triumph of his career

the former world champion, in the ninth and final round. The full extent of Short's success and his filip to British chess can be gauged from the results table below.

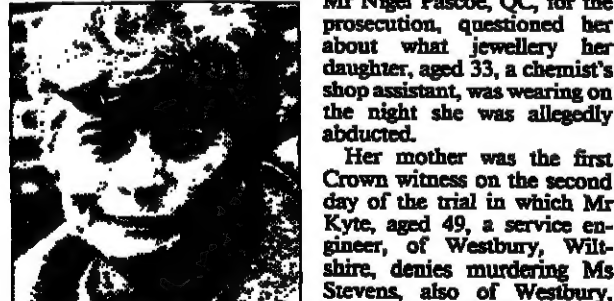
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 N Short	x	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½
2 V Salov	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½
3 G Kasparov	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	½	½
4 A Karpov	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	½	½
5 V Korchnoi	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	½	½
6 J Hjartarson	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½	½
7 J Timman	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½	½
8 M Gurevich	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½	½
9 L Ljubojevic	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x	½
10 J Van der Wiel	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	x

1 signifies a win, 0 signifies a loss, ½ signifies a draw.

Murder trial is halted as mother collapses

THE mother of Ruth Stevens, the murdered bride-to-be, collapsed in court yesterday as she ended her evidence about the night her daughter disappeared.

The trial at Winchester crown court of Michael Kite,



Patricia Stevens: doctor called after court collapse

Miss Stevens's former lover, was halted as court officials tended to Mrs Patricia Stevens. She was seen by a doctor and taken to hospital, where she was later said to be recovering.

Mrs Stevens broke down as Mr Nigel Pascoe, QC, for the prosecution, questioned her about what jewellery her daughter, aged 33, a chemist's shop assistant, was wearing on the night she was allegedly abducted.

Her mother was the first Crown witness on the second day of the trial in which Mr Kite, aged 49, a service engineer, of Westbury, Wiltshire, denies murdering Ms Stevens, also of Westbury, between December 1989 and January 1990. The trial continues today.

Belly of great crested newt holds key to opencast appeal

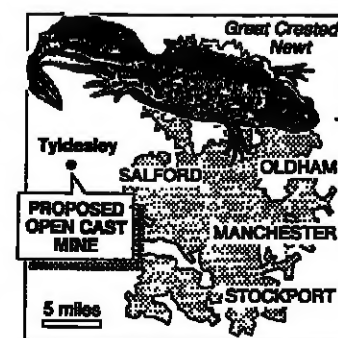
By PETER DAVENPORT

BRITISH Coal's opencast executive is spending £200,000 on developing computerised equipment to identify individual members of a colony of great crested newts to try to overcome planning objections to a £120 million mining project.

The equipment will identify the newts by the patterns of their stomach markings, which are unique to each animal. The newts will be captured and photographed and the details recorded on computer. The exercise will enable their movement to be monitored as part of a long-term research programme. Officials of the executive ordered

the work after objections were made to its plans to mine 2.8 million tonnes of coal from a 1,000-acre site at Tyldesley, Greater Manchester, which includes the largest man-made spoil heap in western Europe, consisting of 10 million tonnes of waste from the now closed Lomax colliery.

The original planning application was turned down at a public enquiry in 1988 on two grounds: out of concern for the colony of great crested newts, and because the boundary was too close to housing. In the hope of allaying the



concerns of the enquiry inspector, British Coal opencast has moved the boundaries of the planned site to more than 200 metres from the nearest house and have commis-

sioned the newt project. The executive intends to re-submit a planning application to the three councils involved, Bolton, Wigan and Salford, in the next four weeks.

A spokesman for the executive, which last year recorded profits of £230 million, making it the most lucrative sector of British Coal, said yesterday: "This just shows how far we are prepared to go to meet the environmental concerns. When we have finished extracting coal from the site over a five to eight-year period we will restore it to agricultural land and woodland."

The project will also include the creation of artificial newt habitats on the site so that the newts can be captured and moved there when

ever heavy machinery moves into their territory.

British Coal Opencast has 60 sites in operation around the country and, according to Ray Proctor, the managing director, it needs to secure 12 new planning permissions a year to maintain its present output. It is fighting nine public enquiries, and officials acknowledge that they face an uphill struggle to win over public opinion.

JPT 11/50

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£3m education scheme to help minorities 'wasted opportunity'

By DAVID TYLER, Education Editor

MORE than £3 million of public money was spent on a largely ineffectual programme to improve the education of children from ethnic minorities in Brent, northwest London, according to a government report published yesterday.

Baroness Cox, chairman of an advisory panel investigating the scheme for the Home Office, said that it had begun in a letter of bad publicity in which some teachers had claimed that the then left-wing Labour council was setting up a system of "race spies" in schools. "By the time we came to look at the programme this had largely abated," she added.

"But it was a wasted opportunity. There was a clearly identifiable educational need to help these children and a considerable sum of money available. We

believe it is very serious indeed that no attempt was made to monitor the programme and to ensure that the money was being spent wisely.

"We are unable to judge whether the money was wasted because not all the facts were available to us, but many people have told us that they felt that it had been wasted."

Brent's Development Programme for Educational Attainment and Racial Equality was designed to help children who were under-achieving, but there was no evidence to suggest this had been done, said the report.

Brent council planned a staff of 181, including a central organisation with a permanent head, who was never appointed, as support teachers to all schools. The total staff never exceeded 56 and many

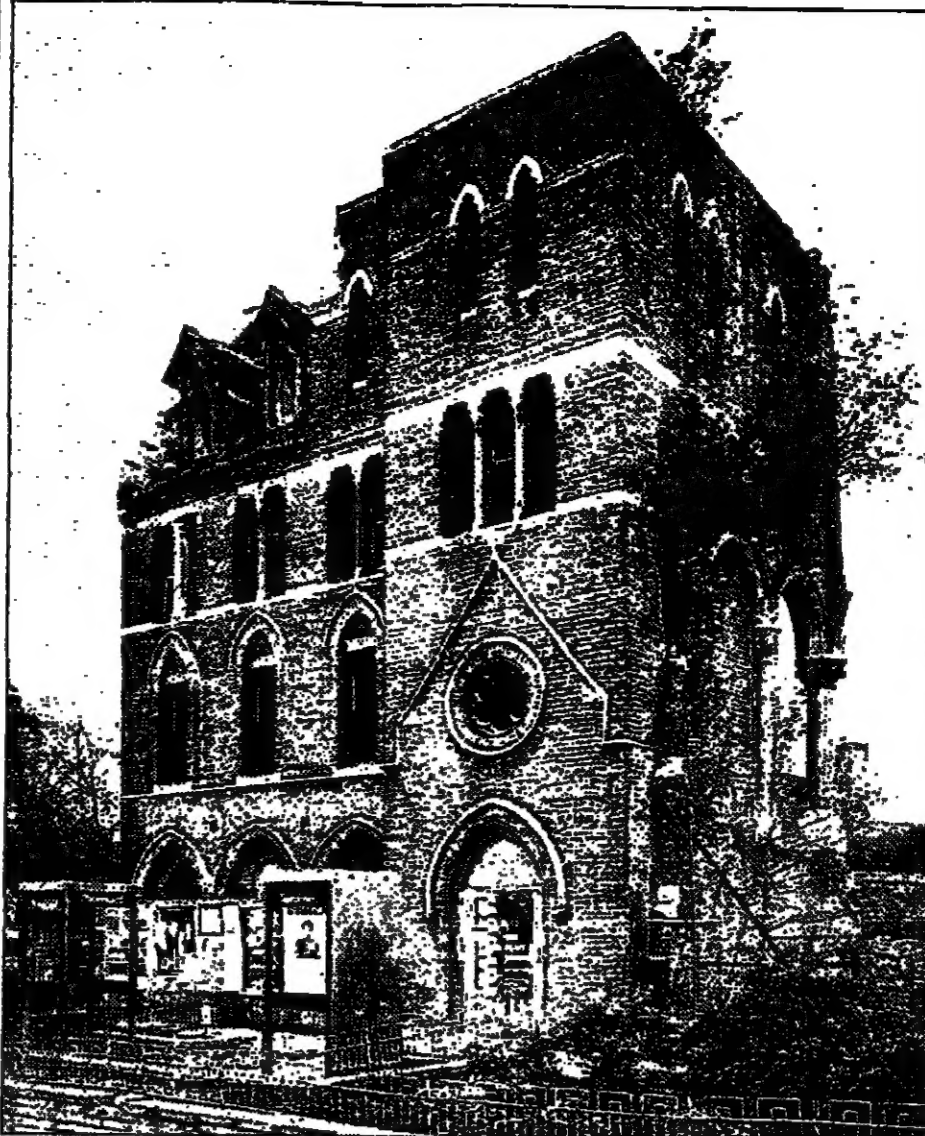
schools were excluded. During the programme, from 1986 to 1991, the council spent £3,234,049, of which about £2,425,500 came from the Home Office.

The Brent language service, designed to teach English to children who could not speak the language, by contrast, said Baroness Cox, was well managed and well targeted.

When it first began, said the report, the minorities programme had been too concerned about equality, not about educational needs.

There had been an inadequate analysis of the needs of ethnic minority children; a lack of coherent planned management at senior levels; no agreed performance indicators; and no overall system of monitoring and evaluation.

During the programme, scrapped by the council last year when Labour lost control, Asians represented just under 40 per cent of pupils in Brent secondary schools, UK white and Irish, 30 per cent, Afro-Caribbean 17.5 per cent, and others 12.5 per cent.



Vandalised: the former vicarage to St Bartholomew's church in Dalston Lane

Hackney leads way in effort to save historic buildings

By JOHN YOUNG

TIME and fortune have not been kind to Hackney, once a vibrant part of London but now afflicted with most of the ills of inner cities. Officially classified as Britain's most deprived borough, and not commonly regarded as an architectural treasure house, it is the subject of an exhibition organised by English Heritage, the Hackney Society and the borough council.

"Saving Historic Hackney", which was officially opened last night, is the first of a planned series on endangered buildings in the capital. It follows the publication last January of English Heritage's register of almost 1,000 buildings at risk in Greater London, of which more than 100 are in unfashionable Hackney.

The Hackney Society's exhibit will describe its efforts to save Stoke Newington Church Street, which was designated a conservation area in 1982 after years of neglect. Also taking part will be the National Trust, which has restored Sutton House, a 16th-century merchant's house in Homerton High Street, which is to be opened for community use, and the Heritage of London Trust, which provided grants

for the restoration of a number of buildings, including the Hackney Empire.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of English Heritage, said last night that Hackney was typical of many inner-city areas of London in that it had a rich heritage of buildings reflecting its social and economic history and yet was subject to pressures that placed its heritage at risk.

"Vandalism by neglect is a major contributor to urban decay," he said. "We are particularly concerned with that hard core of buildings which lie vacant or partially occupied for years. These buildings are at risk from deterioration, vandalism, and the theft of their best architectural features."

Historic buildings gave a sense of place and continuity, Lord Montagu said. Neglected historic buildings were a wasted resource and their restoration and profitable reuse acted as an important stimulus to the regeneration of run-down areas.

The exhibition, at Clissold House, Stoke Newington, London N16, is open from 10am to 5pm until May 27; admission is free.

Pupils enrol for the working class

A parliamentary select committee will today be told of the extent of child labour. Ray Clancy reports

JULIE, aged 14, had three fingers broken when a vehicle rolled onto her hand at a car wash where she was illegally employed. She also spent 16 hours a week doing jobs for family and friends, sometimes worked at a street market, and took part in a song and dance not organised by her parents. Julie, not her real name, is typical of schoolchildren who risk their health and education by working long hours.

The *Hidden Army*, a report by the Low Pay Unit and Birmingham city council, examined the working pattern of almost 2,000 children aged 10 to 16 and found that 43 per cent worked, of which three-quarters were employed illegally. As a result, the Low Pay Unit, whose Scottish branch has undertaken a similar study that produced almost identical results, has estimated that two million children in Britain work.

Some of the worst cases include a girl aged 12 who worked in a factory at night sewing button holes and hemming for 50p a button hole and £1 per hem, and a boy aged 15 who spent 12 hours a week doing household chores for £25. He also worked in a butcher's shop and a stables, and as a model.

The law on child labour is confusing and outdated according to the Low Pay Unit, an independent research organisation, and

local authority child employment officers, who are calling for new laws. Most of the relevant legislation was passed in the 1920s and 1930s.

A child should not be employed during school hours, before 7am or after 7pm, for more than two hours on a school day or a Sunday, in a job that requires lifting, carrying or moving anything likely to cause injury. It is also illegal to employ a child, aged under 13, in premises where children cannot work, however, are not clearly defined and the rising number of children working on building sites, markets and in factories is causing concern.

According to Norman Rouse, child employment officer at Avon county council, many breaches of the regulations arise out of lack of knowledge or understanding. "Parents, children and employers are often ignorant of the law," he said.

The economic exploitation of children, however, is increasing as employers take advantage of using them instead of adult workers, because they can pay them less and dismiss them at will. Recently, Mr Rouse investigated a store near Bath where 33 children were employed illegally. He said: "We have moved on from the Dickensian exploitation of children to a very subtle usage of children to replace adults. This has serious implications for the jobs market."

Chris Pond, national director of the Low Pay Unit, said: "If the government chooses to ignore this report and the scandal of child labour then it is wilfully neglecting its responsibilities. This is an opportunity to take a very important first step towards new legislation."

"In a relatively advanced country there is no excuse for having children at risk from physical danger and economic exploitation. The survey shows that both these things are widespread."



Pond: an opportunity for new legislation

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"LWT? I SUPPOSE THE POOR DARLINGS DESERVE SOME CREDIT..."

Of course, an old megastar like myself is used to receiving major honours, like winning the Golden Rose at Montreux last weekend. And it was for such a homely little offering - *A Night On Mount Edna* set in my modest little palatial retreat in Switzerland.

I'm inclined to take it in my stride Possums, but those well-meaning folk at LWT are really beside themselves at my show picking up television's premier entertainment award (well, the poor darlings do have a few things on their minds at the moment).

Call me old-fashioned, but I suppose they

do deserve a couple of golden petals' worth of glory. I personally don't know what they're making all the fuss about - after all they have won things before.

I mean since 1980 they've picked up more Roses than any other British broadcaster (though I do think a Golden Glad would be more tasteful - roses are so common).

Anyway, I suppose it's customary to say thank you to all concerned - even LWT - who must be so grateful that I've just signed a new three-year contract with them.

It's not really for the money Possums... I see it as part of my charity work for the British Public."



Dame Edna
LWT
MAKES THE WEEKEND

Shelling overshoots

Armed forces chiefs have ordered an enquiry after more than 30 shells, weighing almost 40lb each, overshot a firing range at Faldon, North Yorkshire, and landed nearly a mile away near the village of Whashton.

The 18 in flare-carrying shells, fired from Scorpion armoured vehicles during an exercise by a unit from Catterick, fell in fields and on a road, leaving large craters. A forces spokesman said that the shells had a maximum range of 4.3 kilometres but had somehow carried a further 1.3 kilometres.

Life sentences

A South Korean who hacked two men and a boy aged ten to death after being denied a chance to work in England was yesterday sentenced to four terms of life imprisonment. Sik Kim, aged 30, of New Malden, Surrey, pleaded guilty at Norwich crown court to two counts of murder, two counts of attempted murder and a fifth of manslaughter.

Nurse struck off

Abdool Rashid Lall Becharry, aged 49, a male nurse at the Manor hospital, Epsom, Surrey, was struck off yesterday for beating a mentally handicapped patient with a walking stick in May last year.

Quads born

Dawn Donachie, aged 27, of Leicester, yesterday gave birth to quads.

RAF assault

John Kasprzyk, aged 30, of Uxbridge, west London, was jailed for three years yesterday by Isleworth crown court for driving his car at seven RAF men after an argument at a public house. He pleaded guilty to four counts of actual bodily harm and of driving with excess alcohol.

Pupils arrested

Seven boys from Burghclere Grange school, Basingstoke, Hampshire, were arrested yesterday after they climbed onto the gym roof and threw tiles at staff.

Tractor record

The feat of a group of farmers who took seven months to drive a tractor 14,000 miles from Exeter to Harare, Zimbabwe, is to enter the Guinness Book of Records.



The grey cabinet: 24 men in dark suits, many with grey hair... and not a woman in sight. John Major and his cabinet posing for their first official photograph since he became prime minister. Margaret Thatcher's departure from No 10 means that it is the first all-male cabinet since 1979. As usual, the official photograph includes the chief whip, Richard Ryder, and the cabinet secretary, Sir Robin Butler. Front row (from left): John

MacGregor, leader of the Commons; Tom King, defence secretary; Norman Lamont, Chancellor; Lord Widdington, leader of the Lords; Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor; Mr Major; Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary; Kenneth Baker, home secretary; Michael Heseltine, environment secretary; Kenneth Clarke, education secretary; and Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary. Back row (from left): Richard Ryder, Ian

Lang, Scottish secretary; Peter Lilley, trade secretary; Michael Howard, employment secretary; Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary; Tony Newton, social security secretary; John Wakeham, energy secretary; Chris Patten, Conservative party chairman; John Gummer, agriculture minister; David Hunt, Welsh secretary; William Waldegrave, health secretary; David Melfer, Treasury chief secretary; and Sir Robin Butler.

Labour MPs insist Monmouth will be referendum on NHS

By PETER MULLIGAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

THE government's health reforms came under sustained attack in the Commons yesterday with Labour claiming that tomorrow's Monmouth by-election would be a referendum on the NHS.

Robin Cook, shadow health secretary, accused ministers of failing to deliver their promises on the reforms and alleged a "gulf" between their intentions and the results. "It is not the Labour party, but the voters who are currently making health the main issue of the Monmouth by-election."

Mr Cook drew attention to a picture of Chris Patten, now Tory party chairman, opening a new ward for elderly people in Bath. Within four weeks of the reforms being introduced, the ward was closed.

He said the Lothian Health Authority had dropped from its logo the words "putting patients first" because staff "were sick of having it used as a stick to beat them with whenever they announced cuts".

Guy's Hospital, London, had been promised a surplus of £1.5 million in its first year as a hospital trust but a month after the new system had a deficit of almost £7 million and faced a 10 per cent cut in staff.

He accused William Waldegrave, the health secretary,

of trying to have it both ways: insisting that trusts had not opted out of the NHS but then washing his hands of them when they hit trouble.

He demanded of Mr Waldegrave: "Given the overwhelming rejection of your changes by the public, how can you persist with your plans for a second wave of over 100 hospitals to opt out and form trusts?"

"Why not let the people decide for themselves in a general election, which not even this prime minister can keep putting off for ever?"

Mr Cook said 14 people had spent Sunday night on trolleys in the corridor at King's College Hospital, Camberwell, because no beds were available. The hospital had last year closed 120 beds to meet the department's deadline for eliminating its deficit.

The patients in the corridor, lying nine inches apart, included a blind woman, aged 89, and a boy, aged 16, vomiting blood. "That is the real price being paid for the commercial priorities of this government."

Mr Waldegrave defended the government's plans for reforms.

He questioned whether Mr Cook would be able to get any more money from a Labour Chancellor when he had been promised no more by the shadow Chancellor. It was much more likely that there would be cuts under Labour as there had been the last time there was a Labour government. Although in the past Mr Cook had maintained he had voted against Labour's cuts,

the records showed that he had merely abstained.

One of Labour's charges against the government, Mr Waldegrave said, was the creation of a two-tier service. However, when Labour left office there was a two-tier service with the health unions Colne and Nuffield deciding which were and which were not emergency cases.

There was no reason to believe that Labour would be able to do better in the provision of resources for health than the government had done. The 3.5 per cent growth which the Conservatives had achieved was very unlikely to be bettered by Labour as they had never done better in the past.

"We are spending a bigger share of a bigger national product than ever Labour would or ever Labour could."

Labour had made some extremely dangerous pledges for a party which was not able to commit more resources. Its proposal for a minimum wage would take £175 million out of patient care and the end to competitive tendering would cost £150 million. Together this amounted to the annual revenues of 11 district hospitals.

"That is what happens if you say yes to every passing lobby before you have secured the resources with which to pay for the pledges," he said.

The argument now was about developing the service and on this Labour had nothing to say. It had set itself apart from modern thinking about the development of management in the public services. It merely sought to defend vested interests and a system designed for the late Forties. It had nothing to say on the development of this great service.

"I find myself in the happy position of defending a radical, forward-looking reform to revitalise a great public service while Labour is left behind, carping, criticising and doing its best to scare people."

Charles Kennedy, Liberal Democrat health spokesman, said that while there was a significant percentage increase in funding of the NHS this year, it was likely to be an election year and the projection was that the funding would dip sharply after the election. There was a strong case for saying that the NHS should have more secure longer term funding.

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With several permanent secretaries at key departments due to retire during the next 18 months, an opportunity arises for the occupant of 10 Downing Street to indulge in some judicious personnel management among the top ranks of the civil service.

John Major and Neil Kinnock were born during the second world war, but few of their generation are yet in the top jobs in Whitehall. However, they are poised for promotion to permanent secretary posts in this decade.

While some of those officials being tipped as future permanent secretaries have had the benefits of a traditional public school and Oxford or Cambridge education, some, like Mr Major and the Labour leader, are

the products of more mundane backgrounds.

Sir Terence, himself the product of Windsor County Boys' School and Birkbeck College, London University, is due to retire next May and the man often thought as his successor is Peter Owen, aged 50, who until he went on attachment to the Cabinet Office, was the deputy secretary in charge of housing and construction. The key civil servant involved in the community charge, Mr Owen was educated at Liverpool Institute and Liverpool University. The other candidate from within the environment department is Deric Osborn, aged 50, but with a more typical background for a mandarin. A deputy secretary with responsibility for environmental protection, he was educated at the Leys School, Cambridge, and Balliol College, Oxford University, where he read mathematics. He is seen by many as one of the closest confidantes at the depart-

ment of the secretary of state, Michael Heseltine.

One man being tipped to succeed Sir John Caines, who is due to retire as permanent secretary at the education department in January 1993, is Nicholas Stuart, aged 48, now a deputy secretary, who has served as private secretary to Edward Heath and Harold Wilson when each was prime minister in the Seventies. An extrovert and forthright official, he served between 1978 and 1980 as an adviser to the cabinet of Roy Jenkins when he was European Commission president. He has been closely linked with the government education reforms, including the introduction of the national curriculum.

The other "in-house" candidate is John Verker, who at 46 is perhaps too young for consideration as permanent secretary in 1993. Educated at Marlborough College, he is one of three ambitious officials who form what is jokingly known as the Keele Con-

nection. The other two are Sir Terence and Sir Michael. Sir Terence's connection is the ministry, it is seen as the logical successor. Educated at Marlborough College and Keele University he had a number of jobs, including time as a teacher and AA breakdown operator, before joining the civil service. He has spent most of his career at the ministry apart from time at the Northern Ireland Office and a period working at Nato.

The other official with a Keele connection is Richard Mottram, aged 45, who took a first class degree in international relations from Keele University. He is heavily involved in the policy detail of *Options for Change*, the government's outline proposals for Britain's future defence requirements. However, one former defence ministry official said: "Although he is the outstanding candidate, he is probably too young to get the top job. Look for a stop-gap to provide a bridge between him and Sir Michael."

Patients prefer day surgery to hospital stays

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MOST people favour day surgery to staying in hospital overnight but they would like to have more information, better pain control and more parking space, according to a survey published today.

The report from the Audit Commission, on trials in three health authority areas, indicates that 80 per cent of patients think that day surgery is preferable to in-patient treatment and would recommend it to a friend. The results based on a questionnaire survey conducted a month after treatment, are the first indication that day-care surgery is publicly acceptable.

Those favouring day surgery say that they made a faster and better recovery at home, they were home sooner which was particularly important to parents, and that they felt in-patient care was unnecessary. There had been fears that patients would find the quick turnaround too traumatic and would not have enough support at home for convalescence.

Although 16 per cent of day cases say that their length of stay was too short, that was not much different from 11 per cent of in-patients who feel

the same. The report should give weight to the government's drive to introduce day-care surgery more widely.

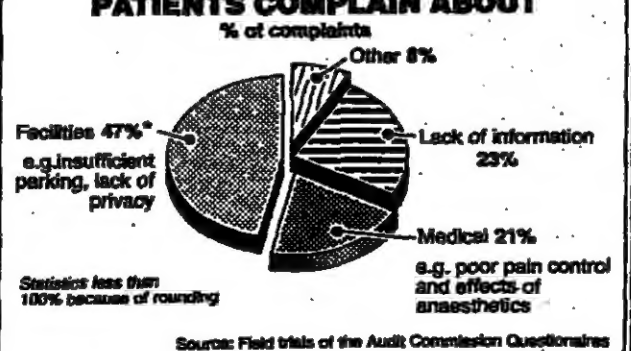
A report from the commission published last year found that 300,000 additional patients could be treated as day cases, equivalent to a third of the waiting list for surgery if all health authorities reached the average day-care workload.

Patients who had been admitted to hospital for one night or more expressed equally high satisfaction levels, however. That could suggest that both treatments are equally acceptable or reflect a tendency for most people to be grateful for successful treatment wherever they have it.

The main bone of contention among those who were dissatisfied with their treatment was lack of parking space. Insufficient information and inadequate pain control after the operation were also among the complaints.

Measuring quality: The Patient's View of Day Surgery (Stationery Office, £5).

WHAT DAY CASE PATIENTS COMPLAIN ABOUT



Source: Field trials of the Audit Commission Questionnaire

Lords seek warheads assurance

Peers sought assurances during question time that under new contractual arrangements for the manufacture of nuclear weapons, warheads would not be sold abroad. Lord Reay, for the government, replied that that was one reason the government was not privatising but believed that "contractualisation was the answer".

Lord Tordoff, a Liberal Democrat, said that General Pinochet of Chile was coming to Britain to buy arms, but Lord Reay replied to laughter that he was the C-in-C of a democratic country.

Adverts for absent voters

The Home Office plans a £665,000 advertising campaign when the general election is announced, to inform all electors of their right to an absent vote if they cannot vote in person. Angela Rumbold, home office minister, said in a written reply.

More doctors

The number of doctors in the National Health Service in England has risen from 61,554 in 1979 to 72,446 in 1989, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said at question time.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Debate on the government's expenditure plans. Lords (2.30): Debates on the arts and on the health service.

£57m cost of ship for St Helena comes under fire

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS were criticised strongly by Parliament's public spending watchdog yesterday for their handling of a contract to provide the isolated south Atlantic island of St Helena with a new ship which eventually cost £57 million.

The Commons public accounts committee found that the overseas development and Scottish Office departments agreed to give the contract for the passenger and cargo ship to the Aberdeen-based company Hall Russell in spite of doubts about the company's viability. The company went into receivership.

The original estimate of £19 million for the ship eventually rose to £32.3 million. The British government also promised the island a 20-year subsidy for running costs amounting to £25 million. The final cost of £57 million was the equivalent of paying the 5,500 islanders £10,000 each. The committee said: "In our view departments should not take so narrow a view of their interests that they lose sight of the fact that they are all operating on behalf of the taxpayer."

One committee member, Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton, said yesterday: "This is a quite disgraceful waste of public money. Ministers in my view should have had formal warnings from their officials that they were embarking upon an unwise procedure in placing this contract and I am very surprised that this was not done in this case."

When questioning officials, Mr Latham was told that nobody had been dismissed or resigned because of their handling of the contract.

The ship set sail for St

Helena on her maiden voyage last November but had to be brought back after problems with the starboard engine. The Overseas Development Administration said yesterday that the ship had now been handed over to St Helena.

The Scottish Office admitted to MPs that it made a serious mistake in not working out in advance the true costs if Hall Russell went into liquidation.

The committee said that the Scottish, industry department's motives in promoting the bid were "understandable".

"While their concern is naturally with Scotland and Scottish firms", the committee's report added, "we would have expected the consequences in other areas, including relevant parts of England, to have been fully evaluated."

House of Commons committee of public accounts thirteenth report: *A New Ship for St Helena*

Bottomley issues pledge

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, promised yesterday to look into a claim by a Conservative MP that his constituents had still not received compensation after the Cleveland child abuse scandal.

Richard Holt, MP for Langbaurgh, said that compensation was being held up "because of solicitors acting on behalf of the local authority and the doctors involved who caused the scandal in the first place".

Waldegrave yields on NHS trusts

By PETER MULLIGAN

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the health secretary, acknowledged yesterday that hospital trusts had not yet sorted out all the problems of the health service.

He was speaking at question time under pressure from Labour which alleged that a two-tier health system was being created by the government's reforms.

"I am willing to admit that the trusts have not in the few weeks they have been in existence solved all the problems of the NHS", he said.

Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich, said that the hospital trust in her area had over the bank holiday "stopped taking in any patients because they did not have a senior registrar available".

Mr Waldegrave replied: "The management she will get from her NHS trust will be very much better than the traditional management which has created these problems in the first place."

Harriet Harman, a Labour health spokesman, pressed him to say whether "instead of patients being treated according to clinical need, some people will wait longer and be treated by more junior members of staff".

Jerry Hayes, Tory MP for Harlow, said that it was "dangerous, cynical, electioneering nonsense" to talk about a two-tier health system.



Cook: accused ministers of failing to deliver

Mansion on the mend

GOOD progress is being made with the restoration of Heveningham Hall, the listed Georgian mansion in Suffolk. Sir George Young, environment minister, said in a Commons written reply yesterday. The restoration of the hall has declined since the National Trust sold it ten years ago.

Sir George said that the owner's agents, Gulf Park Property Management, had advised that the Al Ghazzi family intended to go on using the hall which they acquired when it was privatised in 1981. He was answering ques-

tions from Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, who has been demanding that full details of the recent ownership of the building should be revealed. He has asked ministers whether Saddam Hussein has ever been the owner.

Yesterday, Sir George rejected his suggestion that the hall, formerly managed by the National Trust, should be compulsorily purchased and he refused to consider legislation requiring that the name of the owner of a listed building should be recorded with the category of the listing.

WHITEHALL BRIEF by Richard Ford

'Keele Connection' comes of age

Although Sir Terence Heiser has 12 months left as the top official at the environment department, the ambitious and the merely curious in Whitehall are already speculating about his likely successor.

With several permanent secretaries at key departments due to retire during the next 18 months, an opportunity arises for the occupant of 10 Downing Street to indulge in some judicious personnel management among the top ranks of the civil service.

John Major and Neil Kinnock were born during the second world war, but few of their generation are yet in the top jobs in Whitehall. However, they are poised for promotion to permanent secretary posts in this decade.

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the products of more mundane backgrounds.

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Sir Terence: succession battle whets appetites

A graduate of Keele University, he served at the World Bank; his brother is a diplomat.

The two other men having links with Keele are being suggested as a successor when Sir Michael Quinlan retires as permanent secretary at the defence ministry some time next year. Moray Stewart, aged 52, now second perma-

nent secretary at the ministry, it is seen as the logical successor. Educated at Marlborough College and Keele University he had a number of jobs, including time as a teacher and AA breakdown operator, before joining the civil service. He has spent most of his career at the ministry apart from time at the Northern Ireland Office and a period working at Nato.

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Texan humour keeps Baker going on Middle East treadmill



Baker: doubles as 'anonymous official' at press briefings

FOR James Baker, yesterday began with a drive through Cairo's 100F temperatures and maddening traffic to the airport. Then came talks in Jordan with King Hussein in a hillside palace on the question of Palestinian representation at the elusive peace conference, a historic crossing of the Allenby bridge, a drive through Israeli-occupied West Bank, and to a bed in Jerusalem and the prospect of tough talks with the Israeli government. And that was only Tuesday.

The punishing pace of Middle East shuttle diplomacy has remarkably not taken its toll on Mr Baker's dry, Texan sense of humour. But it has in recent weeks led him to the occasional frustrated private admission that he would like to turn his diplomatic talents to other areas of the globe. The task of trying to

A day in James Baker's life reveals the fierce pace of diplomacy as he seeks an Arab-Israeli peace. His progress is charted from Cairo by Christopher Walker

solve the Arab-Israeli dispute imposes problems not found elsewhere. "What you need is the patience of Job, a gut of iron and a willingness to sometimes admit failure," one envoy said.

Sharing the rigours of schedules so jam-packed that State Department officials often hardly know which country they are in, are the so-called "traveling press", a hardy group of American reporters who accompany Mr Baker everywhere.

The relationship between the Secretary of State and the press has often in the past proved to be

the key to successful shuttle diplomacy, and Mr Baker has shown skill at the tricks honed to a fine art by Henry Kissinger, one of his distinguished predecessors. The most obvious are the briefings reported to the outside world as being given by an anonymous "official" who, in reality, often turns out to be Mr Baker himself. This enables praise, blame and anger to be voiced without breaching diplomatic protocol.

When Mr Baker ended six hours of fruitless talks with President Assad of Syria on Sunday, the anonymous official

was able to say that the only reason to keep this Middle East mission alive was because it would be "dishonourable" to break appointments already made. Hardly had those gloomy sentiments been dispatched from a bank of telephones installed in Cairo's Semiramis Hotel than the real Mr Baker briefed another group of journalists, giving a quite different spin to his mission.

"While there are differences between the parties", he said after talks with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, his Soviet counterpart, "there are significantly more areas of agreement - substantially more - than there are areas of disagreement."

A group of CIA men, KGB agents and members of the Egyptian *Mukhabarat* secret police with large bulges under

their jackets gave the joint press conference a surreal air. At a photograph-call, Mr Baker was asked rudely by one reporter: "Mr Secretary, given what happened in Syria, what would you say is now the point?"

With his self-proclaimed "last chance" mission nearing its climax, Mr Baker has begun speaking out in what some see as determination to point the finger at Syria and Israel as the two main obstacles to his initiative. On earlier shuttles he had said so little that American reporters named him "the Secretary of Stealth".

Mr Baker's aides said yesterday that he was in good humour because he believed that he had made his best effort to seize the "window of opportunity" for forging a peace deal after the Gulf war, and was convinced it would

not be his fault if the mission aborted. He told reporters in Cairo: "Nobody can impose peace on the parties. They have got to want it. So they have got to find a way to come together."

Any doubts that Mr Baker lacked the temperament for a good shuttle diplomacy were dispelled during his recent meeting with Mr Bessmertnykh in the Caucasus resort of Kislovodsk. Asked how clearly he could see peace ahead, Mr Baker gestured towards Mount Elbrus, scarcely visible in the afternoon haze, and replied in a deadpan tone: "I can see things extraordinarily."

Arab summit: Formal attempts to heal the bitter divisions in the Arab world caused by the Gulf war will begin in Cairo today when the 21-member Arab League holds its first ministerial meeting since the conflict.

Iraq attacks Major over hard line on sanctions

By MICHAEL BINYON AND MICHAEL EVANS

IRAQ has denounced Britain to the United Nations for wanting to maintain sanctions as long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power. Ahmad Hussein al-Khodair, the foreign minister, has written to the security council to complain about a speech by John Major, saying his remarks were "sinister", "impudent" and "ridiculous".

The prime minister told the Scottish Conservative party conference in Perth last week that Britain would veto any UN resolution designed to weaken the sanctions as long as Saddam stayed in control in Baghdad.

Britain insisted before and during the campaign to liberate Kuwait that the removal of the Iraqi leader was not a war aim. Since the ceasefire, however, London has repeatedly said that Iraq could not be welcomed back into the international community while Saddam was in office.

Western governments will find it difficult to ostracise the Iraqi leader indefinitely. The UN is having to deal directly with his government in negotiations over the safe havens. Prince Sadraddin Aga Khan, the UN humanitarian co-ordinator, and Mervyn Dymally, the head of peace-keeping

operations, have held talks with him in Baghdad. If Kurdish leaders conclude autonomy agreements with Saddam, the West will come under increasing pressure to deal with him directly.

So far, the European Community has stood firm against any resumption of normal ties. There are no proposals to return EC ambassadors to Baghdad. The issue is not on the agenda for future meetings of EC foreign ministers. Nevertheless, there is a growing realisation that there is little the West can do to get rid of Saddam, who has now consolidated his grip on power.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, was asked last week by the Commons foreign affairs committee about London's attitude. "We have never thought that a change of government would be brought about by the Kurds or indeed by the Shiites in the south of Iraq," he said. "The change will be brought about, when it comes, by people at the centre, by people in Baghdad."

It was British policy to see Saddam removed - if not by military force, then by other pressures, including economic.

Iraq promised yesterday that there would be no repeat of an incident in which a British Royal Marine patrol near Sarsank, in the north of the country, was forced to shoot back after Iraqi soldiers opened fire on their position. Baghdad had previously denied that the exchange of fire had taken place.

The marines from 45 Commando believed they had hit two Iraqis in military uniform who opened fire on them from the walled grounds of the presidential palace near Sarsank, in the eastern sector of the allied security zone. The incident highlighted the concern among the allies over the continuing presence in the safe havens of small numbers of armed Iraqi troops.

President Bush yesterday played down the exchange of fire, although he said that it underlined the need for UN personnel to take over responsibility for Kurdish refugees from allied forces. He said at the White House: "It is surprising there have been so few flare-ups of this nature. Tempers are high. It's very difficult for these refugees."

Martin Jacques, page 14

Israelis urged to exchange captives

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN NAHICHT, LEBANON

HUSSEIN Musawi, unofficial spokesman of Islamic Jihad, has said there is a "rare opportunity" for indirect negotiations with Israel to promote an exchange of hundreds of Arabs held by Israel with Western hostages in Lebanon.

The statement was one of several made by Shia Muslim leaders over the past 24 hours. Mr Musawi said the key to freedom for the Western hostages lay exclusively in Israeli hands, and Britain and America should act quickly to put pressure on Israel to "close the hostage file".

Those seeking to end the ordeal of Terry Waite, John McCarthy, Jack Mann and the six Americans seized in Beirut since 1985, must now focus their efforts on Israel, Mr Musawi said in a rare interview in this remote Shia village south of Bealbek, a pro-Iranian Hezbollah base.

Mr Musawi, a former schoolteacher, claims to have the ear of the presidents of Iran and Syria as well as those of leading Shia figures in Lebanon. He believes Washington can persuade Israel to release some 350 Lebanese and Palestinians locked in the al-Khiam jail in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon, where international relief agencies have been unable to gain access. The Shias also want the release of Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid, the Lebanese Shia cleric who was kidnapped by the Israelis from his home village of Jibchit in 1989.

Israel refuses to make a deal that would exclude the return of Israeli soldiers captured in southern Lebanon and the return of the bodies of the seven servicemen who went missing in action in southern Lebanon four years ago.



King nurtures Turkish pride

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN KANI MASI, NORTHERN IRAQ

TOM King, the defence secretary, yesterday visited this rest station for Kurdish refugees returning to Iraq during a tour of Turkey aimed at assuaging Turkish pride over the country's unfavourable coverage in the British press.

Although Mr King would not admit he was seeking to smooth ruffled feathers, there is no question that an important part of his mission to Turkey is to play down an incident in which some British marines are alleged to have looted a Turkish provincial official. Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Dunlop, of the Royal Marines 40 Commando, said: "I just hope we leave on a high. Relations between the military and civilians have a way of going wrong."

He was speaking in Kani Masi, once an orchard paradise but destroyed in 1978 by

President Saddam Hussein's forces as part of his attempt to deprive the Kurds of a mountain base. At the moment, the colonel can rest assured that his is one of the most popular armies of occupation for their part in what Mr King described in an address to the troops as providing a terrified people the "chance to get home". But Mr King said the United Nations had to take charge of helping the refugees to return home.

For the marines stationed in Kani Masi, their part in the rescue operation is to maintain the village as a transit centre and also to provide security. Their commanders readily admit that it will be very difficult to force the Iraqis out of Dahuk. A military operation to secure the city would mean a street-to-street operation that might in the end destroy the very object of the exercise.

One solution to the problem of overcrowding could be for some of the Kurds to return to their villages in northern Iraq that they were forced to vacate more than a decade ago. But parts of Kani Masi are said to be still debilitated from the effects of an alleged chemical gas attack in 1988.



Stepping stones: a Kurdish family filing along a riverside path on their way from a Turkish mountain refugee camp to a safe haven in northern Iraq. An American forces commander said yesterday there was a steady flow of refugees from the mountains to allied-controlled camps in

Iraq (Reuters reports from Silopi). But United Nations statistics showed that at least 200,000 people were still in Turkish border camps despite efforts to coax them to return home. Many Kurds at Kani Masi say they will not move on until they feel the provincial capital of Dahuk is secure.

US 'seeks nuclear ban' on Jerusalem

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush's first concrete policy proposal aimed at defining a new world order after the Gulf war includes a plan that would forbid Israel to produce material for nuclear weapons and require Arab countries to renounce their chemical arms, according to published reports.

Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, denied the existence of a formal plan, although America has consulted its allies, including Britain, about arms control in the Middle East. James Baker, the Secretary of State, and Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, raised the topic during recent visits to the region, while the president aims to produce an arms control plan with the long-term goal of eliminating all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Mr Fitzwater, responding to a report in *The New York Times*, said the administration was "a long way from a decision and a plan". The paper said Mr Bush had delayed an announcement until after Mr Baker's return this week from the Middle East.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 14

Do you believe in life before death?



Do you believe no one should be sentenced to 40 years hard labour?

Do you believe clean drinking water is a necessity not a luxury?

Do you believe no one should be under-nourished in a world that over-produces food?

Do you believe in preventing preventable diseases?

Do you believe too many people think of the street as home?

Do you believe every child should have a childhood?

Do you believe that no one should dismiss the poor as worthless?

Do you believe these things enough to help us do something about it?

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All in a day's work for Shias in Israeli uniform

As Beirut enjoys a rare period of peace and reconstruction, the first film to be made in the ruined city for more than a decade is in production, with Shia Muslim militiamen - now unemployed because of the ceasefire - playing Israelis.

The film is a biography of Najj al-Ali Awad al-Adhami, the Palestinian political cartoonist, who was killed at the age of 48 by an unknown gunman outside his London office nearly four years ago. But the \$2 million (£1.2) Egyptian-Lebanese production does not say who paid the killer who fired the single pistol bullet in July 1987.

In the film, *Najj al-Ali*, the killing of one of the most controversial artists of the Arab world remains a mystery. Mr al-Adhami, played by Egypt's burly star, Nour Sharif, was often as hostile to the Palestine Liberation Organisation as to Israel.

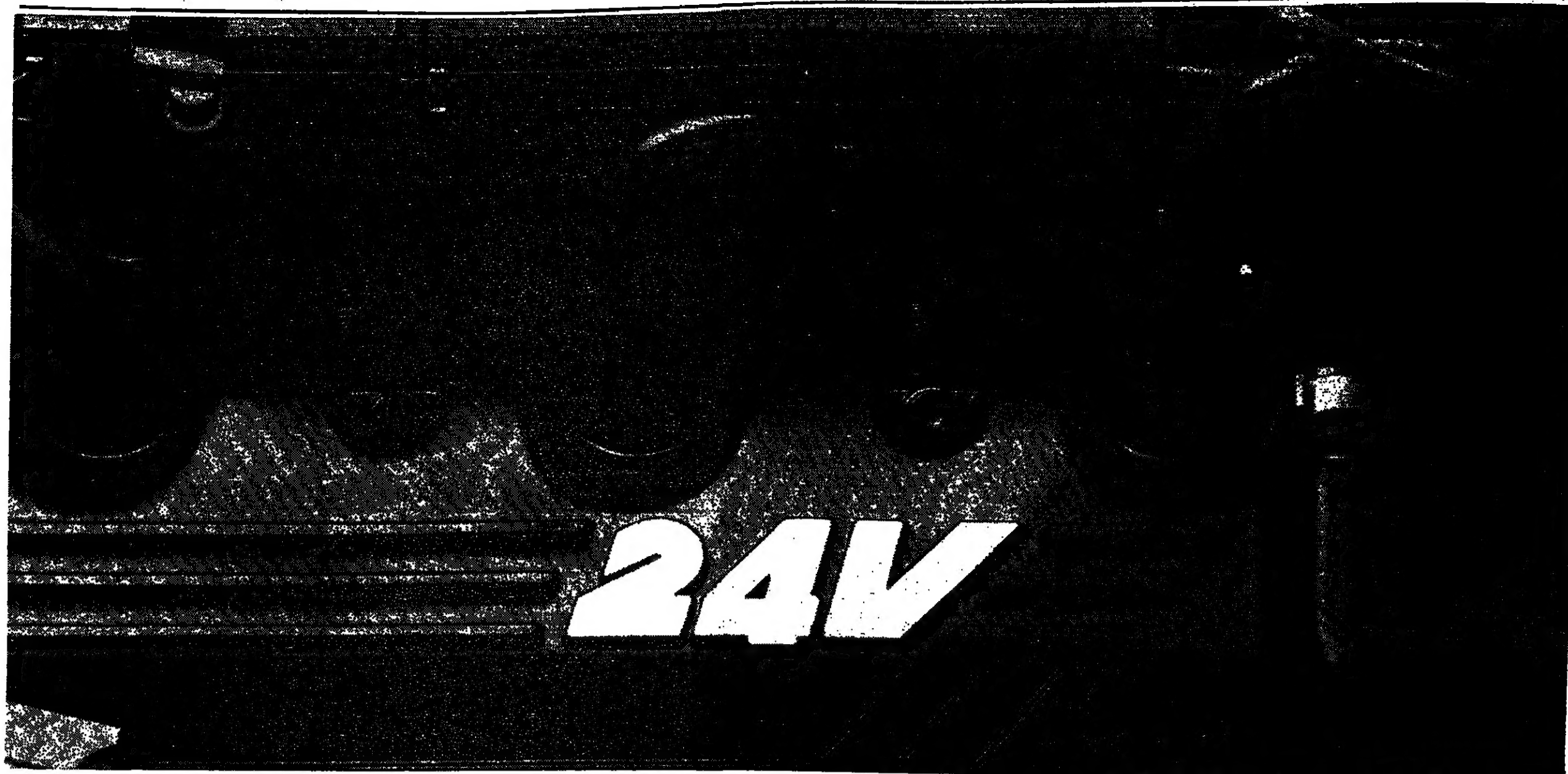
I watched a surreal re-enactment of June 1982, with the Israeli invasion 24 hours old. In the crowd of civilians waving white flags to advancing Israeli tanks, al-Adhami, who like many Palestinians lived in Lebanon, is seen holding a newly born boy.

he has found lying in the street. The man is in shock and the baby's face has been burnt by a phosphorus bomb. Atop the "Israeli" armoured vehicles, former Shia militiamen in fake Israeli uniforms, wielding M16 rifles, are having a break and a smoke. "Shalom, shalom", they shout to the crowd, which explodes in laughter.

One tough-looking Syrian agent in civilian clothes was seen begging Sharif to give him a role. The same Syrian was later spotted smiling inside a crowded military jeep flying an Israeli flag. Nearby a former gunman of the Shia Amal militia said he felt happy, even "lucky" in Israeli battledress. His plans to continue the "fight against Israel" from central Beirut evaporated last month when the government disbanded all the militias and he lost his \$350 (£205) monthly income.

"Two weeks ago I did not have a job; today I am an actor," he said with a broad grin, his eyes flashing under the Star of David painted on his Lebanese army helmet.

Juan Carlos Gumucio



As a company chairman, there are some secrets you should share only with your mechanic.

In the company car park, the new Peugeot 605 SVE24 is every inch the big, luxury car your directors would expect you to drive.

What they won't expect, when they admire the 605's understated elegance, is that under the bonnet lurks one of the most refined 3 litre V6, 24 valve engines in production today.

Should one of the more inquisitive members of your board happen to spot the discrete 24 valve badging above the back, right hand indicator, you will be able to reassure him that, like you, the 605 SVE24 exercises power with responsibility.

Just to reassure you, however, that the SVE24 is indeed a wolf in Savile Row clothing, in controlled tests it accelerated effortlessly to 145 mph, leaving its German cousins, the Audi Quattro 20V and the BMW 735i in its wake.

But we'd be the first to admit that straight line acceleration is no mark of engineering sophistication. When it comes to power in cars, as in most other things, it's not what you've got but the way that you use it that matters.

The vast majority of powerful, high performance engines are designed for free breathing at high revs to give more power, which generally means they suffer from relatively poor gas inflow at low revs, and consequently deliver lower torque. In other words, acceleration from low speeds in fourth and fifth gears can be impaired.

Most car designers can live with little imperfections like this, Peugeot designers can't.

They've solved the problem with a variable length inlet manifold which increases torque at lower revs. The result is that you can accelerate smoothly without changing down.

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Peugeot's designers moved mountains in their search for a solution to this problem, and came up with an engine management system that automatically takes all these factors into consideration, and chooses the optimum fuel injection and spark timings from a choice of 11,664 permutations.

The influence of our racing car design team, whose 905 will be performing at Le Mans this year, is evident in every 605's handling characteristics, from the 2 litre SLi, right through the range.

The double wishbone rear suspension is derived from the classic competition layout, with computers being used to set the precise geometry for keeping rubber on the road.

A special lateral link helps prevent the front of the car from diving when braking sharply, and the rear from ducking when accelerating. Speed-variable power steering takes the effort out of negotiating the SVE24 around the company car park, then gets progressively harder to provide more 'feel' as the car's speed increases.

'Car and Driver' said, "The Peugeot handles superbly, ranking among the very best large front-drive automobiles. Indeed the 605 has such good balance and grip that the uninformed might not be able to decide if the front or rear wheels are doing the driving."

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هكذا من الأصل

Communists take Nepal's capital in free elections

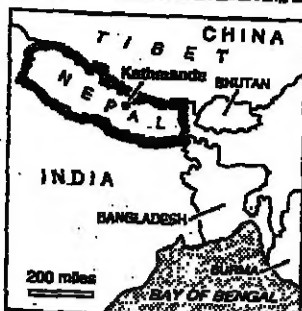
By SANJAY UPADHYA IN KATHMANDU

RD flags fluttered across Kathmandu and up to the gates of the royal palace yesterday as the communists won the capital overwhelmingly in Nepal's first elections in 32 years.

With the worldwide trend running against communism, the Himalayan kingdom witnessed scenes that would have been unthinkable only a year ago. In the capital, where even mild criticism of the king formerly brought a jail term, young people paraded the red flag throughout the city.

The most visible casualty of the communist surge which saw them take all but one of the city's seats was one of the men who only last year persuaded the king of the need to move to a less authoritarian system of government — the prime minister, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, aged 67.

A man who spent years in jail for seeking a more democratic system, he also led Nepal's only previous democratic government elected in 1959. He and its other mem-



bers were arrested barely 21 months later in a palace coup by the present king's father. In an audience with King Birendra yesterday afternoon, Mr Bhattarai resigned "on moral grounds" after being narrowly defeated in his Kathmandu constituency. The king accepted his offer to step down but asked him to continue in a caretaker capacity until the new government is formed. Mr Bhattarai later indicated that he was likely to resign also as acting president of the Nepali Congress party. "Political morality demands that as soon as I am defeated I should tender my resignation,"

so I have just delivered my letter personally to the king," he said. In an interview with the BBC, he said the communists had won "because they were more honest".

Mr Bhattarai's defeat came amid the virtual rout of his party in Kathmandu at the hands of the communists. The Nepali Congress lost all but one of the five seats in Kathmandu district. Three seats were won by the United Marxist-Leninist faction of the Nepali Communist party, while the fourth went to a communist candidate of a smaller grouping supported by the UML. The man who defeated Mr Bhattarai by 750 votes, Madan Kumar Bhandari, aged 38, is general secretary of the UML group. With 69 of 205 constituency results declared, the Nepali Congress had 34 seats, to 27 won by UML and its allies.

Mr Bhandari said this morning that he was not surprised by his own and his party's victory. The UML's impressive showing has been attributed, among other things, to its strong cadre-based organisation and the better political discipline of its members. More importantly, it is believed that the communists managed to derive unexpected advantage by their attempt to portray the Nepali Congress as "anti-national", an apparent reference to the close ties it has with Indian political parties. The communists based a big part of their campaign on questioning the patriotism of the Congress and also accused it of moving close to the monarchy, which until last November exercised unlimited power.

The Congress defeat in Kathmandu was also seen as a personal blow to the supreme leader of the party, Ganesh Man Singh, aged 75, who led last year's successful pro-democracy movement which paved the way for the elections. Mr Singh did not contest the elections, but his wife and son did from the capital and both were defeated.

The main international observer group, comprising 60 members from 22 countries, which monitored Sunday's polls, said in its interim report: "The elections were generally conducted in a manner fair, free and open, enabling the full expression of the will of the people." It admitted there were some irregularities, but said these did not affect the overall conduct of the polls.



Helping hands: an injured woman being lowered by rescue workers from a train which crashed head-on into another near Shigaraki, central Japan, yesterday killing 42 passengers and injuring more than 400 others. The first coach of a train with 600 tourists on board jack-knifed and was

Risky choice by Bush for CIA chief

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday nominated Robert Gates, his deputy National Security Adviser, to be the new director of the CIA, despite the risk of reopening the Iran-Contra scandal.

Mr Gates was the CIA's deputy director in 1986 when William Casey, the then director, encouraged the covert arms-for-hostages deal with Iran and the illegal diversion of the proceeds to the Nicaraguan Contras. President Reagan nominated him to succeed Mr Casey in 1987, but Mr Gates withdrew when senators began questioning his role in the affair.

Mr Bush said he had "no qualms at all" about re-nominating Mr Gates, whose advice he came to rely on heavily during the Gulf war. The Iran-Contra affair had been investigated over and over again and Mr Bush knew Mr Gates to be a man of "total integrity".

Members of the Senate intelligence committee, which will now hold confirmation hearings, had been consulted in advance and "so far I'm very, very pleased with the way the consultations have gone", Mr Bush said.

Both David Boren, the Democratic chairman of the committee, and Frank Murkowski, the committee's senior Republican, predicted that Mr Gates would be confirmed despite some stiff questioning.

However, George Mitchell, the Democratic leader in the Senate, said Mr Gates's role in the Iran-Contra scandal was almost certain to be an issue in his confirmation hearings and he would not decide whether to support or oppose the nomination until those hearings were completed.

Senators Arlen Specter and Bill Bradley, who led the opposition in 1987, said they still had reservations.

The two congressional intelligence committees have been re-examining Mr Gates's record and the mass of Iran-Contra evidence. They are bound to raise the key unanswered questions of how much he really knew about the diversion and how responsible he was for drafting Mr Casey's subsequent misleading congressional testimony.

Mr Gates denied any wrongdoing in 1987, saying he was withdrawing to prevent protracted controversy that was harming the CIA.

Seoul students clash with police

Seoul — Pitched battles broke out in Seoul yesterday as more than 50,000 South Korean students clashed with police during a day-long funeral march mourning Kang Kyung Dae, a student aged 20, who was beaten to death by riot police last month (Joanna Pitman writes). His mother was among the marchers.

Lines of helmeted riot police faced a barrage of petrol bombs and in some areas engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with marchers wielding steel bars. Paving stones were torn up and hurled as police vans fired tear gas into the crowd of protesters. Reports indicated there were no serious casualties.

The incident was the worst street violence Seoul had seen since 1987, when student rioters accelerated the departure of President Chun Doo Hwan.

Canada vote

Ottawa — The Canadian Conservative government will legislate to allow a referendum on national unity as part of an attempt to avert secession by the French-speaking Quebec province. The proposed new law would "provide for greater participation by Canadian men and women in constitutional change".

Ostmark hunt

Bonn — German police and state prosecutors' agents have raided businesses and houses in Berlin and elsewhere to try to discover what happened to the 22 billion Ostmarks which vanished when Alex Schalck-Godolowski, then East Germany's hard-currency dealer, sought asylum in the west 18 months ago.

Albanian alert

Vienna — Albania has put its army on alert in response to the troubled situation in Yugoslavia, President Alija said. ATA news agency quoted him as saying the violent power struggle between Serbia and Croatia "seriously threatens peace and stability in the Balkans and the whole continent". (Reuters)

Vintage years

Toronto — Wine was being made 5,200 years ago, according to archaeologists from the Royal Ontario Museum. They have found a stain on a fragment of a jar excavated at a trading post in Iran, dated before 3000 BC, belonging to the Sumerians. Tests showed the stain came from tannic acid, associated with wine.

China looks for better Soviet ties

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN BEIJING

WHEN Jiang Zemin, the general secretary of the Chinese Communist party, arrives in Moscow today for a summit with President Gorbachev, he will be the first Peking party leader to make such a visit since Mao Tse-tung in 1957.

Although Li Peng, the prime minister, went to Moscow last year, it is Mr Jiang's four-day trip which China is presenting as the return visit for Mr Gorbachev's Peking summit in 1989. The Chinese foreign ministry has been eager to emphasise that just as President Gorbachev came to Peking on behalf of party and state, so Mr Jiang will be in both roles in Moscow. Mr Jiang's sole state position is as the head of the military commission, and diplomats say that in this capacity he may sign agreements on military co-operation, specifically on the purchase of Soviet weaponry and MIG aircraft.

Although both countries insist they want no return to the alliance of the 1950s, relations have been particularly warm since the Gulf war. Diplomats believe that the two neighbours may be drawing closer in the face of American domination on the world stage.

The Soviet foreign and defence ministers have visited Peking recently, fuelling speculation about military co-operation. Agreement on the border, which has been the biggest source of military tensions, appears to be close at hand. The Peking foreign ministry has declined to give details of any agreements to be signed in Moscow.

Mr Jiang and President Gorbachev are expected to discuss the problems of communism in their respective countries, a highly sensitive issue. When Mr Gorbachev came to Peking in 1989, the streets were in uproar. Now the city has been brought under control, and it is Mr Jiang who can afford to feel superior. In an interview with a Soviet journalist Mr Jiang said that while the Soviet Union had encountered "temporary difficulties", it would "win the final victory".

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Battles royal in India polls

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

INDIA'S former royal families are involved in politics in large numbers, often as an extension of fierce family feuds and inheritance disputes. Heavily represented in the election campaign, the erstwhile maharajas and their kin are generally still popular figures, making them a prize catch for any political party.

Looking out yesterday from his palace on the shore of Lake Pichola in Udaipur, Arvind Singh noted that his older brother, Mahendra, had turned to politics. "It is because of the family dispute. It is a way of fighting back." Despite being the younger

son by three years, Mr Singh, aged 47, inherited hotels, palaces and trusts when his father, Bhagwat Singh, maharaja of the former state of Mewar, died in 1984. In his will the maharaja cut his elder son out of most of the estate. Since then, the two brothers have been locked in a fierce legal battle over control of the empire.

In next week's election Mahendra Singh is defending the Rajasthan constituency of Chitor, which he captured in 1989, on a Congress (I) ticket. He was campaigning in villages in the Rajasthan desert yesterday.

Politics, rather than money, lies behind divisions in the royal house of Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The former rajmata, Vijayraje Scindia, aged 71, is fighting for re-election on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket. Her son, Madhavraje Scindia, is fighting for re-election on a Congress ticket. There has been a long and ugly public dispute over political ideology. There have also been suits and counter-suits over the administration of trusts and palaces.

Scions of the Nawab of Rampur will be fighting the poll with customary bitterness towards each other.

Free trade meeting escapes deadlock

From GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

TALKS aimed at creating a European economic area market of 400 million consumers in 19 countries were rescued from deadlock early yesterday by a late-night fudge, but important difficulties remain.

Ministers from the European Community and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) managed to issue a progress report on several months of hard bargaining. But the document was only agreed after many contentious points had been removed from the text or watered down. Swiss delegates, whose government has complained the loudest about the "top-sided" deal being offered to EFTA, declined to accept even a bland clause which committed all parties merely to try to reach a deal by the summer.

The most optimistic participants think agreement might be reached by September, but in any event not before the next meeting in Salzburg next month. The knottiest problems facing EFTA's seven members — Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, and Liechtenstein — are fish and money.

WASHINGTON: President Bush said yesterday he would consult allies on whether to invite President Gorbachev to July's G7 economic summit in London as an observer, but displayed little enthusiasm for the idea.

The Soviet leader is interested in attending and his presence in London could provide a pre-election fillip for John Major, but Mr Bush said that, if he were invited, "it's important that... something positive will happen".

Tourism slump chills Croatia holiday coast

From TIM JUDAH IN SPLIT

BENJAMIN Whitehouse, aged three, a small British tourist on a day trip to Split yesterday, declared that the Union Jack planted on the top of his chocolate ice-cream cone was "jolly good". Unfortunately for the ice-cream vendors of this popular holiday destination, they will probably still have stocks of flags in the autumn.

After the fatal shooting of a soldier here last week during a nationalist demonstration, the Foreign Office has advised Britons not to come to this part of the Croatian coast, and few were in evidence yesterday. Yugoslavia was hoping to earn \$5 billion (£3 billion) from a projected 8 million foreign tourists in 1991, but clashes between Serbs and Croats have already destroyed this season.

Ana Manzoni, a director of Dalmacijaturist, one of the area's largest tour groups, said gloomily: "More than 70 per cent of tourists come to Croatia. This year we only expect 40 per cent of last year's numbers. Of our full time staff of 500, one-third have just been put on paid holiday and we expect to take on only about four of the usual 150 seasonal workers we usually employ."

Walking through the narrow streets of this ancient port it is hard to believe that only an hour's drive into the hills armed bands roam the countryside and man roadblocks. According to Mrs Manzoni: "We still think of this as something that only happens on television." But most foreign tourists prefer to play safe. Today the uncrowded streets and cafes could not

be more inviting to those who work in them. Yugoslavia's troubles have brought catastrophe.

Split's potential was first recognised by the Roman emperor Diocletian who, tired of trying to bring order and stability to the empire, retired here in AD 305 to grow cabbages. It took ten years to build him a palace, but such a thorough job was done that much of it is still part of the structure of the old town.

Today artists and craftsmen sell their wares in its

cancellations... this is the worst year."

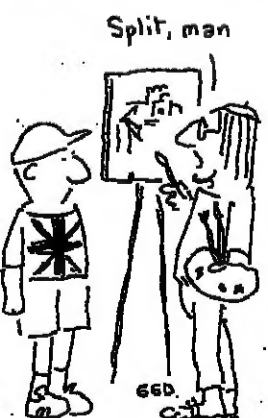
Mr Perkovic is lucky though. With the present level of foreign bookings, more than a third of the area's hotels may not open at all this season. While British package tourists have cancelled or been sent elsewhere, there is another class of Briton here. Robert and Vera Leitch, a retired couple from Glasgow, have spent the last five summers on their 33ft catamaran, *Cosmoval*, which is moored in Split's marina.

Mr Leitch said: "Normally you can't get a table at a cafe at this time of year, now they're half empty."

Mr and Mrs Leitch scoffed at stories which appeared in British tabloids about tourists having felt threatened and hiding under their beds in last week's demonstration. Mrs Leitch said: "We watched it all from here. It was very orderly and I was not shocked or afraid. I was sorry for the parents of the lad who died, but the shooting just sounded like two wee plops to me."

The nearby sloop *Blue Diamond*, John Vickery, who also watched, said: "I used to be the air attaché in Beirut, so this is peanuts." But he said that the Foreign Office had done the right thing in advising Britons to steer clear. "Wiser to err on the side of caution."

Sipping coffee on her catamaran, Mrs Leitch said: "It's so sad to see a lovely country go this way." Mr Leitch said: "It's all peaceful now, but you never know. I'd be out of my tiny mind if I advised people to come. It's different for us, of course. We can just sail away."



Tracked down: Azerbaijan militia arrest an Armenian guerrilla near Getashen village in Nagorno-Karabakh, where more than 35 Armenians were killed when it was stormed by Soviet and Azeri troops

France fears summer of discontent

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS A new, official report revealed that clandestine immigration from the Third World to France is still on the rise, there is growing concern that tension in the suburbs where poor immigrants are concentrated could spark off violence in the cities during a long, hot summer.

A rash of incidents outside Paris involving young people, mostly of Arabic origin, and private security guards, hired by shopping centres, has underlined the volatile mood in what the French press increasingly refers to as urban ghettos. Hardly a week passes without a police association saying that the situation is deteriorating and demanding the authorities to apply tougher measures. At the same time, organisations representing the three million or more

immigrants from North Africa frequently emphasise that the high, and still rising, level of unemployment among recent school-leavers is fuelling discontent. With the traditional long summer holiday not far off, there are set to be a great many bored, poor and restless youngsters on the streets for the best part of three months.

They will not be short of newly arrived company: the statistics for 1990, released yesterday by the immigration authorities, show an increase of more than 7 per cent in the interception of foreigners lacking proper papers to stay in France. Since it is acknowledged that only a fraction of illegal immigrants get caught once they have slipped into the country, it is impossible to calculate with accuracy the total of new arrivals last year.

Even so, the 73 per cent rise of recorded "irregularities" involving arrivals from Algeria and Morocco indicates the scope of the problem, as does the 150 per cent leap in the quantity of forged documents seized last year. In Paris alone, it is estimated, one in every five foreigners does not have proper papers; the vast majority entered France legally on short-stay visas.

Information like this comes as manna from heaven for the extreme-right National Front, which feeds off the antagonism of many of the "real" French towards immigrants, especially those with brown and black skins. In one recent opinion poll, 70 per cent complained of "too many Arabs" (one in four also felt France could do with a lot fewer Jews). By most counts,

some 8 per cent of the population of France are either foreign-born or had immigrant parents, compared to 6 per cent in Britain and about 4 per cent in the United States.

In far-right circles, the evidence of a big influx of immigrants from eastern Europe is likely to be equally unwelcome. According to yesterday's report, the after-effects of the convulsions that swept the communist world produced a headlong rush to get into France, by fair means or foul. There was a 700 per cent increase in the number of people from the Soviet Union apprehended "in an irregular situation", while Albanians (a rise of 185 per cent) and Romanians (up 142 per cent) were also on the move.

Jailed ANC leader's wife vows to continue the struggle

'Mother of the nation' keeps her supporters

From RAY KENNEDY in JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE Mandela's loyal supporters did their best yesterday, after she was sentenced to six years' imprisonment, to show that they still regard her as the "mother of the nation".

As a dense crowd of the mainly curious gathered outside the Johannesburg Rand supreme court, posters printed by the Winnie Mandela support committee, which emerged when the trial began in February, were distributed among them.

The posters recalled the statement by Nelson Mandela, made when his wife appeared in court for the first time: "My wife was harassed by the state for 30 years. Now I am here to give her support." Although Mr Mandela was in court throughout Monday when judgment was passed, he was nearly 1,000 miles away yesterday, addressing students at Stellenbosch university, the cradle of Afrikaner National party dogma.

Afrikaans was developing into the language of the new South Africa, he told them, the language of liberation. "This language must develop as part of a new democratic state," he said.

Outside the Rand supreme court, a poster proclaimed: "No justice under unjust government." "Stop harassing our mother" read another held aloft by demonstrators, who sang freedom songs and staged war dances in central Johannesburg under the eyes of armed police.

As Mandela, her co-defendants, Xoliswa Felati and John Morgan, emerged, fists were raised in clenched salutes. Mandela told the crowd: "I want to thank each and every one of you for not being

influenced by misleading reports... we were tried and found guilty by the media. The struggle continues."

A Soweto leader and the Mandela family physician, Dr Nthato Motlana, expressed shock at the "harsh and savage sentence, quite unbecomingly, quite out of proportion. The judge has overreached himself," he said.

There were chants of "Mandela" (freedom) and "ANC" as the group including her counsel, George Bizos, pushed through the heaving throng to his offices across the road. Police were out in force and one of their helicopters circled overhead.

But in less than five minutes it was all over and the crowd drifted away. On most faces there was not a flicker of emotion.

Other lawyers said the sentence against Mandela was not excessive. "The judge did not consider any political connotations when he arrived at the sentence. If one considers the fact that kidnapping carries a maximum death sentence, a six-year jail sentence was fair," said a Johannesburg lawyer, Paul Jenkins.

The ANC has not commented so far on the outcome of the case and there is as yet no sign of the mass demonstrations against the verdict of a white court threatened by Chris Hani, leader of its military wing, Umkonto we Sizwe.

A senior government official in neighbouring Zimbabwe, who refused to be named, said: "We have always viewed Winnie Mandela's case as a political trial... and there has never been any



Closing ranks: Winnie Mandela making her way through a crowd of cheering supporters in Johannesburg yesterday after being sentenced

justice in the racist regime's politics. She was tried on trumped-up charges pursued to weaken and discredit the ANC, but they have failed in that. We are not surprised at the sentence which may bring them (the South African government) more problems."

Although Mandela's charisma and outspokenness has great appeal to young blacks, the reaction of more conservative older people was summed up by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The judgment, he said, was probably as

fair as one could hope for. He said he felt both sadness and sympathy for Mandela.

At the end of last month Mandela was convincingly beaten in an election for the presidency of the ANC women's league which would have given her automatic entry to the ANC's national executive committee. Many of the 1,000 delegates felt that, although they held her in high regard, she should take a back seat until the outcome of her trial was determined.

Now there are suggestions

that she should quit her position as the ANC's head of social welfare to demonstrate her loyalty to the organisation and to her husband.

"For Nelson there is an intense feeling of sympathy and pity," a senior black businessman said yesterday. "After all he's been through, he doesn't deserve this. His wife has been behaving like the wife of a president and she couldn't handle it."

Six-year sentence, page 1
Leading article, page 15

Husband still loyal, even at a distance

From STEPHEN TAYLOR in CAPE TOWN

AN INDICATION of Nelson Mandela's resilience and political resolution was demonstrated by his decision to address students at Stellenbosch university — a former bastion of apartheid — while almost a thousand miles away his wife, Winnie, was being sentenced to six years in prison. But his loyalty to his wife was not in doubt, nor was his faith in her innocence.

"I have never believed that she was guilty of assaulting anyone," he said. He believed the defence plan to appeal would succeed. "The last word in this regard has not been spoken," he added.

Mr Mandela's devotion to Winnie is obvious to anyone who has seen them together. For much of her trial he was in the public gallery, reaching across during breaks to comfort her with words and gestures of affection. Observers point out that his whole expression changes from distant dignity to warm affection when he talks to her.

Immediately after the judge's guilty finding, Mr Mandela hastened to his wife's side. Embracing and kissing her he asked: "My darling, how are you?" If he is indeed blinded by love, her feelings for him remain an enigma. The couple had only two years of marriage before the South African authorities put him in prison for 27 years, turning him, in the process, into legend.

The furthest his wife has gone, in discussing their marriage, was the comment she once made to a television interviewer: "I have never really known what it is like to be married. I am

the most unmarried married woman. Nelson was always busy with meetings. I felt I had no claim on him as a member of the family. I knew he was the people's leader. His country had more access to him than I ever had."

Many observers believe Mr Mandela is burdened with guilt about his long period in prison, when she was left alone to raise a family and maintain the struggle against apartheid. But he shows no sign of abandoning the political duties which are imposing an increasing strain on his 72 years and fragile health.

Speaking in Afrikaans yesterday, he said it was unfortunate that the majority of blacks viewed Afrikaans as the language of the oppressor, the language of the police and the language of the prison system. "We view the Afrikaans which is now in the process of developing as the Afrikaans of the new South Africa, as a language of liberation," he said.

About 20 white students tried to disrupt his speech, singing Afrikaner nationalist songs and carrying placards saying "Mandela, you're a communist".

Mr Mandela's bodyguards and African National Congress marshals, helped by a number of white students, began ejecting right-wingers after they refused requests to leave the auditorium. Fighting and scuffles broke out, but the students were eventually removed.

Mr Mandela, the deputy president of the ANC, said later that the incident had reminded him of his days as a student and added: "Now that I'm a victim of such deeds, it is not nice."

Signs of Malaw reform as poet freed

Harare — Authorities in Malawi have released Ick Mapanje, the country's best-known poet, who was adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience after four years in detention without trial (see Raath writes). He was picked up by police in 1987 and detained in Mikuyu prison on the Malawian Zomba plateau, where for 20 months nobody was allowed to visit him. Although no reasons for his detention or his release — have been given, it is clear he was held because of his poetry's criticism of the president's repressive regime and the climate of fear it inspires.

But Mr Mapanje's release was the latest evidence of a surprising degree of "glasnost" that has crept into the tiny central African state of 11.4 million people.

Rail links hit

Maputo — Renamo rebels have inflicted more damage on Mozambique's vital rail and power lines to South Africa as peace talks in Rome between government officials and the rebels appeared close to collapse. (AP)

UN team arrives

Phnom Penh — A three-man United Nations military mission has arrived here to observe a ceasefire from the Cambodian government side, which guerrilla forces have promised to observe. (Reuters)

Condor move

Buenos Aires — Argentina will turn its military rocket project, Condor II, into a civilian programme, taking it away from the air force, Antonio Erman Gonzalez, the defence minister, has announced. (Reuters)

Voters' verdict

Warsaw — In a setback to Poland's burgeoning democracy, only one man took the trouble to cast his vote out of an electorate of 595 in Sunday's local elections in Mragowo, in northeastern Poland. (AP)

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Spotlight on two vital battles to be fought today in the Channel 3 television franchise war

TV-am looks to its laurels

This morning, along with as many as 35 bidders for 16 different ITV Channel 3 franchises, Bruce Gyngell, chief executive of TV-am, will submit to the Independent Television Commission his company's cash bid for the national breakfast licence. He will reveal programme plans aimed at getting the station past the "quality threshold", and rebut those who criticise the service for being bland and "soft-driven".

TV-am, the most profitable television station in the world, in terms of advertising sales, will also reveal an expected £2 million rise in pre-tax profits to £26 million during a year when many ITV companies have fallen into the red, victims of the advertising recession.

Such profitability was more than enough to lure two high-powered consortiums into a blind bidding war against TV-am. Daybreak TV, the group chaired by Sir Paul Fox, the recently-retired managing director of BBC Television, is considered its strongest challenger, with heavy-weight backers such as ITN, Carlton Communications, MAI, the American network NBC, the Daily Telegraph, Taylor Woodrow and Sir Robin Day.

TV-am is also facing a rival bid from Sunrise TV, a consortium made up of LWT, Scottish Television, Walt Disney and the Guardian and Manchester Evening News group.

While many pundits believe TV-am, together with Thames Television and TVS Entertainment, to be the most vulnerable franchise, the result of the contest depends



Head to head: Sir Paul Fox (above left), of the Daybreak TV consortium, questions the quality of news coverage offered by TV-am, under Bruce Gyngell



almost entirely on the size of the cash bid. Although the ITC is empowered to award a licence to a lower bidder if its programme promises are exceptionally better than those of a higher bidder, it is thought unlikely the "exceptional circumstances" clause will be invoked in this case.

TV-am, whose ratings actually rose by 10 per cent when a strike by technicians forced it to run episodes of *Beatman* and *Happy Days* until it could teach its secretaries to operate the equipment, has come a long way since Mr Gyngell rescued it from near-bankruptcy. Sharply rebuked by the IBA, the ITC's predecessor,

and warned in 1988 that it would lose its licence if it did not improve programme quality, TV-am began investing in its news operations, developing eight regional studios and several international bureaux.

The company now boasts a staggering 72 per cent share of the breakfast television audience, with more than 17 million people tuning in during the week. While it lacked the gravitas of the BBC in covering the Gulf war, its authoritative coverage won it a letter of congratulation from George Russell, the chairman of the ITC.

However, at the launch of the Daybreak bid, Sir Paul said: "When

it came to the Gulf war, ITV felt it necessary to get ITN to supply the real news programme when TV-am came off the air at 9.25 each morning.

"This showed that ITV did not have sufficient faith in TV-am and had to turn to ITN for the hard facts."

Yes, TV-am is very popular, but then so is *The Sun*. I find it depressing that the best thing in the morning is Radio 4. TV-am is just two people on a couch."

Sir Paul's remarks prompted an angry reaction from Mr Gyngell, who said: "Sir Paul admits he does

not watch breakfast television. His remarks about TV-am are not only out of touch but totally untrue. ITN's breakfast news service for Channel 4 attracts less than 1 per cent of the breakfast audience."

Today it will become clear what Sunrise and Daybreak plan for the breakfast programme. However, following the failure of the more upmarket TV-am of the early days, when it was run by David Frost, Peter Jay, Angela Rippon, Robert Kee and Anna Ford, the challengers will have to think twice about what the viewers want.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Coronation Street stocks up for a siege

Granada is banking on its record to help it retain its licence

Lord Bernstein, Granada group president, chose an odd title for the company that was to beam across a region of state roofs, mill chimneys and heavy industry. He borrowed the name of the Spanish city for the exotic and theatrical qualities it implied. But to seven million viewers in the northwest there are no Spanish connections. Granada means television pure and simple, from *Coronation Street* to *Brideshead Revisited*.

Granada faces a challenge from Mersey TV, the Liverpool-based independent company and maker of *Brookside*, which has not disclosed any big names to support its bid. Within Granada, the challenge is regarded as a mere raffle, and the company is confident that it has the size and resources, and has shown sufficient dedication to the

region, to retain the contract. The company was given a 93 per cent chance of succeeding in a recent newspaper poll and it does produce one in every four hours of network programmes. But the bidding has come at a difficult time, with group profits down 40 per cent and the lean times exacerbated by £80 million lost in the closure of the old BSB.

But Granada wants to become an even more commanding presence in the North. Its bid in partnership with Border

Television to take over the Tyne Tees franchise has strong financial backing, in spite of the present climate. The TV centre in Manchester spreads across 15 acres, and in Liverpool it runs a high-tech electronic news centre. Local links are strengthened with centres in Lancaster, Blackburn and Chester.

The name most closely tied to the company is *Coronation Street*, which for more than 30 years has played its fictitious part in churning Granada to a north country image. It is watched by more than 15 mil-

lion viewers, has been shown in 24 countries and has created its own tourist industry at the Manchester studios.

But Granada can claim to have earned a reputation for drama extending far beyond northern idiosyncrasy. Its adaptations of *Jewel in the Crown* and *Brideshead Revisited* were internationally acclaimed. Its latest contemporary drama, *Prime Suspect*, has attracted 14 million viewers. Granada has been a seedbed for the writing talents of Arthur Hopcraft, Victoria



Wood, Geoffrey Lancashire and Jack Rosenthal. *World in Action* takes an interest in current affairs far beyond the northwest, as do the long lists of excellent documentaries including *Disappearing World* and *Man and Music*.

Better known to local audiences have been such pro-

grammes as *Flying Start*, which investigated new industries in the region, and *House Style*, in which the programme-makers refurbished a house and took rogue builders to task. The programme claimed regional audience figures that were very few points behind *EastEnders* and underlined Granada's reputation for concentrating on subjects of direct and practical interest.

Even so, the economic climate and the trends towards game shows and cheap programmes are casting their shadow. Granada is determined to enter a bid that will not frustrate the production of excellent and ambitious shows. But programme makers fear that hard times could oblige the company to rest, for now, on its laurels.

RONALD FAUX

Viewers' view

The public will be able to inspect the Channel 3 licence applications from tomorrow at 275 main public libraries and the 14 national and regional offices of the Independent Television Commission. Bids must be submitted to the ITC by today. Viewers will be free to express preferences, but they will have to write to the ITC by June 26, without knowing all the names behind a bid or the amount of cash offered for the licence. Should viewers have questions for the regulators or the bidders after perusing the hundreds of pages of documents, they will have no open forum in which to do so.

During the 1980 franchise round, the Independent Broadcasting Authority held public meetings. The ITC, however, has decided there is little point in doing this, given that the selection process laid out in the 1990 Broadcasting Act provides little scope for

public influence over the result. The ITC has asked viewers to limit their comments about a bid to whether they believe the applicant's future plans meet quality requirements: "Do the plans for regional programmes seem likely to satisfy the needs of the region? Do applicants appear to have the potential to provide programmes of high quality? Have they the knowledge and talent to deliver their proposals?" The ITC asks viewers in a guidance pamphlet.

Viewer opinion will be considered throughout July, although the ITC warns that it "cannot be the determining factor". Those contenders who pass the quality threshold will move on to the next stage: the opening in August by the ten member commission of the envelopes containing the blind bids. The successful bidders will be announced in October.

Independent merger moves

THE board of Newspaper Publishing, the parent company of *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*, will meet today to discuss a merger of the two titles into a seven-day-a-week operation to cut estimated losses of £500,000 a month on the Sunday title. Andreas Whittam Smith, the *Independent's* editor and chief executive, has ruled out the closure or sale of the *ios*, but it is understood to favour the merger of just the news operations of both titles. Stephen Glover, the *ios* editor, is opposed to the idea and thought likely to resign if it is implemented. Mr Whittam Smith says: "It has to be debated thoroughly. The key issue is whether a special Sundayishness feel to it is necessary." An announcement of job losses is expected by the end of the month, although the management is contemplating following *The Guardian* with a 12-month pay freeze.

Q and A

THE BBC has come up with a shortlist of eight independent producers being considered to produce *Question Time*, its news and current affairs flagship. Just over 70 put in bids for the contract. The winner will be announced on June 17. Meanwhile, the independent producer Barraclough Carey has won the contract to produce BBC1's new, as yet unnamed "answer back" series. Presented by Julian Pettifer, the programme will give viewers the chance to question BBC television producers and executives about what they see on BBC1 and BBC2. "If the BBC is patently in the wrong about something, we



don't intend to pull our punches," says George Carey, who developed the programme idea. "We want to listen to what viewers say, and investigate both sides of an argument."

M.W.

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- 9.15 Set up meeting for next week with one of them to thrash the programme out face to face. Re-thought structure of event to reflect research.
- 1.07 Time to grab a sandwich.
- 1.22 Dismiss! Key speaker for my leisure industry conference that I am just finishing has declined my invitation. Two other possibilities found, contacted and invitations faxed out.
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- 5.45 Just time to pull together my own notes for a conference I'm running tomorrow on Cost Control which has 150 delegates. What other new developments in this market can I find? A mistake in selecting a conference topic could cost us £20,000 - some time later go home.

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Bygone days of booze at one

Have last orders been called on the tradition of lunchtime drinking? Heather Kirby looks at alcohol-free boardrooms and a research project into drinkers who opt for a dry run

The Queen, or any other VIP customer of Coutts bank in the Strand, may still be offered something from the company's fine wine list if visiting for lunch, but increasingly the visitor to an executive dining room is more likely to be faced with a choice of bottled mineral waters.

According to a survey this week, more companies are declaring themselves an alcohol-free zone. Some say the move is designed both to set a healthy example to the workforce and to demonstrate that they and the management are sharing the same conditions. "We are concerned with promoting a healthier lifestyle. All our offices are non-smoking as well, but it is also a question of equity," says John Edgar, a spokesman at the ICI headquarters in London, which is the last of the company's offices to go dry. "Most of our production sites deal with reasonably hazardous materials and they are not allowed to drink — so it is only fair the same rule applies to management. It is still possible to entertain people in the evening here by offering them beverages including alcohol, but it is not available during the day."

At Coutts, customers may drink alcohol when they are entertained to lunch in the boardroom, or in one of four flats on the top floor, but staff are expected to stick to mineral water.

There is not yet total harmonisation among Britain's biggest companies about providing alcohol: Esso is dry, the Prudential is not, the Westminster Bank has closed all its bars, but Lloyds Bank in Lombard Street, London, has a wine bar, Le Cheval Noir, on the premises. "Drinking is a social and business activity and we have never contemplated taking a hard line on it by banning alcohol from the premises. Anyway, staff could go out to the pub if they wanted a drink," says Brian Butler, a spokesman for Lloyds Bank. "In fact we have no policy on alcohol consumption because we have never experienced any problems arising from it. We have taken a harder line on smoking because that is what people seem to feel more strongly about. We have dining facilities for directors and

very senior executives and we had more licensed facilities on these premises until a year ago, when most closed down because we moved a lot of people to Bristol. The wine bar in London and people tend to come here from our other City buildings for lunch."

Dr David Murray-Bruce, the group chief medical adviser to NatWest, sees the closing of its in-house bars as a further step in the campaign to help staff by not putting temptation their way. He believes there is "probably" still alcohol available to guests but says that "even visiting VIPs are quite happy to have a tomato or orange juice. In years gone by you had to disguise a soft drink with ice and lemon to make it look as if it were alcohol."

Although the British are almost at the bottom of the European league table for drinking alcohol (only the Swedes consume less than us, according to a survey, Business Comparisons, carried out by the Economist Intelligence Group), many people seem to be quite anxious about their drinking habits. Dr Geoff Lowe, a psychologist with Hull university, who is carrying out studies of people who abstain from drinking, is never short of willing guinea pigs.

"On the whole, they are modest social drinkers but they find the exercise helps them to get their drinking into perspective," Dr Lowe says. It gives them an excuse to stop drinking, which can be difficult in some work situations. Often people are involved in the kind of work where they are offered lavish lunches but if they have a month's abstinence they find afterwards that they can say no and still survive. That does not mean they have to go to the opposite extreme and take a holier than thou attitude. Having a brandy after dinner is perfectly fine so long as employees remember free drinks have always been a bribing situation."

One of Dr Lowe's guinea pigs, who offered to be abstemious for a month, is Ray Ball, a 45-year-old director of the British Library. "One of the reasons I did it was because I found myself having



Boom-time for the liquid lunch: a typical scene from a crowded City bar in the London of the Sixties

business lunches several times a week, which was a new departure for me: I left the army recently and this is my first civilian job," Mr Ball says. "We do not run an executive dining room at the British Library but we occasionally get a caterer in when we will serve wine, and I go to restaurants as the guest of other people. Consequently, I was drinking more out of a social obligation. One never has to, but I felt obligated. My abstinence from drinking became a conversation point at times but it was quickly accepted by my colleagues and became the norm."

Another of those taking part in the research, Ruth Harrison, aged 48, a doctor's receptionist at a group practice in Norwich, says she does not drink at work but looks forward to a drink afterwards. "When I

come in from work tired I want something to get me going enough to get a meal ready and soft drinks are really unpalatable," she says. "I was less relaxed during my abstinence period, I didn't enjoy food as much as usual, or sex either, come to think of it. When the end of the month came I planned to have a big gin and tonic, a couple of glasses of wine with supper, then a brandy to go to bed with. But, alas, the gin went straight to my blood pressure. I am sure I could give up alcohol if I had to, but I'm glad that I don't have to."

Alex Teuwen, aged 43, a local government officer from Surrey, started his month's abstinence with, he says, a hunkering of a hangover from a combination of gin, white and red wine and whisky, in that order, one Sunday lunchtime. "So I had no desire to drink on the first

day of my abstinence. When I attended a seminar in London there was free lunch including unlimited wine and I felt that was very galling, a terrible waste. There was a lot of micky-taking from colleagues but I managed to persevere."

Some jobs are more difficult, if not impossible, for the would-be abstemious person. At the Savoy, for instance, they regard drinking on duty, sometimes, as a duty. "Just as a good chef will have to taste his food, so a good barman would have to taste a mix of drinks," says Sarah Manser, a spokeswoman for the hotel. "If it were a question of concocting a new cocktail, then he would seek the opinion of his waiters — but obviously he will be expected to use his professional judgment and not taste too much, or let them taste willy-nilly."

Laughter lines for the disabled

Why people in wheelchairs can be a suitable theme for a comic play

I think it was the juxtaposition of the words "comedy" and "disability" that caused most of the distrust. The questions may have come variously clad in curiosity and near-support, but the consensus seemed to be: did you really expect to write a funny play about women in wheelchairs without being thought sick or patronising or both?

No, I'm not sure that I did. But the question, when I thought about it carefully, turned out to be far less condemning in its content than in its tone. It did not contain the assumption that the product would be sick and/or patronising, but asked rather whether I would get away with it. Again, I have no idea.

What I do know is that the direst situations will, time and again and against all expectations, yield the richest humour, and that humour itself, when it is the laughing-with and not the laughing-at kind, has always had a healing potential. This is not to say that a man stricken by polio will suddenly break into a trot because he has just heard a particularly good crack about crutches, but that laughter can make a subject accessible where earnestness bars the door.

Yet even justification along these lines makes for a grandiose manifesto. There was a far more basic, personal reason for my trying to write a play with three chairbound residents of an institution at the heart of the action. At the age of 59, and apparently out of the blue, my mother suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhage which left the use of one side severely impaired. It was considered inoperable, and was undoubtedly very nearly fatal. Even in the random scheme of illnesses and afflictions, it seemed far too young for someone so active.

Almost 20 years later she has, so to speak, grown into a retirement that is mostly contented, and even spirited. Had she not had the luck, two years after the stroke, to be given a place in a home in Bristol financed by the Wills foundation, I do not know what would have happened.

Heaven knows, there are worse stories. In the grim succession of hospital, intensive care, rehabilitation centre and inappropriate nursing home, there were all manner of younger victims, more reduced by unpalatable accidents or by the outrageous mutiny of their own constitutions: motor neurone cases, crumpled arthritics, post-operative tumour sufferers and, apparently most numerous of all, recently hale men and women clubbed by strokes into a cruel compression of life's slowing-down processes. The stuff of comedy? You must be joking; and if you are, I am tempted to agree. I freely admit that I wanted to write about it partly to make some sense of my own vicarious experience. The trouble was that to approach it in a weighty or worthy way was to become disgustingly portentous; to wax all sym-

thetic was to join the therapeutic school of writing, from which God preserve me also. No, it seemed that the most valid humour would have to spring from the victims' own perceptions of the supposedly caring world.

One of the worst afflicted and least regarded sectors, it seemed to me then and now, was the middle-aged group with conditions neither progressive nor imminently life-threatening, but none the less grave enough to forbid a return to the old existence. Once the programme of physical rehabilitation had run its useful course it was either a move back to the referring hospital, very likely to share a ward with geriatrics 30 and 40 years older; or the beginning of a new, mutually stressful dependence in the revamped ménage of a son or a daughter; or a move to a residential home which might have been able to cater for an individual's illness but was clueless in the face of his or her remaining wellness. I cannot remember how many stories I heard of searches for the "right" place. Nor can I forget the heart-breaking tales of families who, having got their patient into an unsuitable place elsewhere, then discovered that they were no longer eligible for help from the social services department of their home authority.

With all this stuff in my head, I set about the writing. This was very nearly ten years ago. No, it has not taken that long to complete; in fact it got written reasonably quickly, once the characters had started to find their own voices and, more importantly, to assert their own humour. To my relief, they even started to marshal themselves into embodiments of the very different responses called up by chronic disability: acceptance, stoicism, denial, acquisition of faith, and so on.

WHAT took the time was getting it produced. There were those who thought it ruled itself out because of the "unsexiness" of wheelchairs on a stage, and others who ruined the compliment that it was funny by adding that this was its problem. But there were also just enough good remarks from people I respect to keep me teetering — I use the term with care — enabled. And more and more opinions: on no account should I consider having it done by non-disabled actors. If I explained why this was impossible I would give the game away. There was even one expression of something like pique that I was not disabled myself, to which I suggested, uselessly, that this attitude actually increased the danger of patronage and "rhetorisation". Finally, one concluded that even though I was not disabled at present, I would be. There was no answer to this; I expect I was being over-sensitive.

ALAN FRANKS

● A Wing and a Prayer is being performed at the New End Theatre, Hampstead, London NW3 to June 30.

& BRIEFLY

How to make tracks

BE PREPARED for Tube strikes, or avoid the fare increases that came into effect this week, by learning to "Tubewalk". Tubewalking means walking the shortest distance between mainline and Underground stations in London, or roughly as the Tube travels. Tubewalking is explained in a new booklet which identifies the quickest route to 28 central destinations.

Myron Edwards, the managing director of the publishers, Tubewalking Ltd, says that although "the City and the West End appear miles away on a map, in reality they are closely linked if you know the short cuts. You could do Liverpool Street to Holborn in 20 minutes and from Holborn you'd get to Covent Garden in six or seven minutes."

There are detailed maps and instructions, as well as succinct directions. Useful to Londoners and visitors. Tubewalking's 28 Walks in London costs £2.95 from the London Tourist Board in Victoria and large book shops. Further information from Tubewalking Ltd, 49/51 Marina, Bezhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN40 1BQ (0424 730564).

Teddy's treat

TEDDY bears of all sizes and ages should be booking their tickets to the teddy bears' picnic at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens on the final day of the Solihull Arts Festival on Sunday. The Dutch Brass Quintet will provide the entertainment, you provide your food and teddies, and the setting is an 18th century garden not far from the National Exhibition Centre, near Birmingham. A family ticket admitting four costs £6. There will be prizes for various categories of teddies. Musical arthropods can take their companions on to hear Julian Lloyd Webber and the European Community



Teddy: ready for an outing Chamber Orchestra later that evening. Telephone bookings from the Solihull Library Theatre on 021-704 6962.

Bringing parties to book

THE Red House, the mail order children's book club, has entered the party business. Cards, table settings, goodie bag-fillers, party games and prizes — including, of course, books — are all available by post. Clever ideas include "boxmobiles" — cardboard cars for carrying party fare (40p each) — and party crackers featuring Thomas the Tank Engine and Postman Pat (£4.95 for eight). A bag of 20 assorted party prizes costs £2.50, a set of wooden dominoes is 75p, pencil sets featuring Winnie the Pooh and other favourites are £1.25, a sturdy wooden skipping rope is 95p, and there is a range of items from balls to water pistols at 50p. Catalogues from The Red House Party Post, Witney, Oxford OX8 5YE (0993 700485).

Dragons' lair

DRAGONS of Walton Street will hold its first sale this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Famous for its hand-painted furniture and nursery accessories, Dragons has not held a sale since Rosie Fisher founded it 13 years ago. So a lot of sample pieces are coming out of its Sussex warehouses, with bookcases — usually over £100 — starting

from £14, beautifully painted desks for £100 (usually £500 or more) and cupboards for £50 (usually over £250). A percentage of all sales will be given to the Stars Organisation for Spastics. The sale will take place at the Hall of Remembrance, 54 Flood Street, London SW3, 2-6.30pm Friday, 10am-6pm Saturday, and 11am-6pm Sunday.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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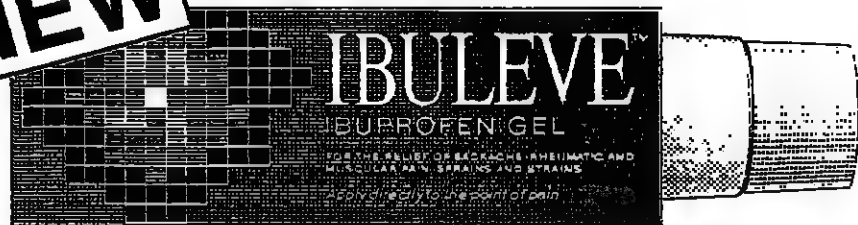
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Judge blames Ciskei forces and ANC for Bisho deaths

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN PRETORIA

A CALL for the Ciskei authorities to prosecute those responsible for the Bisho massacre was made public yesterday by Mr Justice Goldstone in a report on the killings submitted to President de Klerk.

The report by Judge Goldstone's commission of enquiry "regarding the prevention of public violence and intimidation" is a trenchant and scathing indictment of the Ciskei armed forces for the "disproportionate and deliberate" use of guns and grenades against demonstrators protesting at the lack of political freedom in the so-called independent black homeland.

The report also criticises the African National Congress for allowing Ronnie Kasrils, the communist intelligence chief of the ANC armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, to lead demonstrators through a gap in the fence outside Bisho stadium towards the Ciskei troops. Judge Goldstone and his three fellow commissioners call on the ANC and its allies publicly to censure Mr Kasrils and others responsible for the decision "knowingly or negligently to expose them to the danger of death and injury".

The report reserves its stron-

gest possible condemnation for the behaviour of the Ciskei forces. "The manner in which the Ciskei forces fired at the demonstrators can only be condemned in the strongest terms," it says. "Anyone who has watched the videos of the shooting will have experienced a feeling of disbelief that the shooting could have continued for what appeared to be an interminable time."

The commissioners note that the soldiers continued to fire at the demonstrators who broke through the fence, even though they had turned to run back, "until the last of them disappeared from sight".

They say that, even if the Ciskei commander or his men honestly believed they were under attack, even if they believed the crowd was intent on overrunning them and continuing to the Ciskei capital, even if they believed one of their number had been shot by a demonstrator, even then, "their indiscriminate and prolonged shooting at innocent demonstrators was morally and legally indefensible and is deserving of the strongest censure".

On the question of the Ciskei soldier who died, the report concludes that "the high probability is... that he was shot by one of his fellow soldiers." Forensic science evidence showed that the soldier was hit on the left side of the back of his head by a bullet typical of that fired from an R4 rifle (the standard equipment of the Ciskei defence force).

The report calls for an immediate enquiry into the training and discipline of the Ciskei armed forces with the results made public, and with the intention of ensuring that "a recurrence of the undisciplined, unprofessional and wholly unacceptable conduct of which they were guilty... cannot recur".

Calling on the Ciskei attorney-general to investigate criminal charges against any person responsible for death or injury in the vicinity of the stadium on September 7, the judge said that the guilt or innocence of the soldiers, or the liability of the Ciskei authorities to compensate the victims or their families, should properly be determined by a court of law. Failing the launch of such proceedings, "this question will have to be reconsidered by the commission".

The ANC and its allies are further criticised in the report. While the right to hold mass demonstrations to make a political point is strongly defended by the commissioners, they add that it is unacceptable when the demonstrators take over public buildings or occupy an area of a town and create semi-permanent disruption as a means of coercing political change.

Leading article, page 15

Delhi tries to curb riotous assembly

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

HOOTING and howling are to be banned in the Indian parliament, whose MPs hoot and howl a great deal. Throwing paper balls, hissing, shouting slogans and playing cassette tapes will also be outlawed. Carrying guns, a status symbol, will not be tolerated. The place will lose its charm.

New draft rules of con-



duct for MPs, if they were ever observed, would leave the Lok Sabha (lower house) and the Rajya Sabha (upper house) much diminished. Both are anarchic, noisy, ill-disciplined, unpredictable and entertaining from the safety of the public galleries.

India's headline writers jealously guard one of their

ous", for describing parliamentary sessions. The word does not fully do the occasions justice, but perhaps riotous would be going too far. Even the pedantic wording of an all-party discussion paper, entitled *Discipline and Decorum in the Parliament and State Legislatures*, reveals something of the substantial measure of bad behaviour. Under the sub-heading, *Types and causes of disorder*, it observes that, apart from hooting and howling, members make "parallel speeches and similar sorts of activities".

The document, containing proposals for a new code of conduct, says that MPs should not read books and newspapers in the chamber. That is not a common problem because rarely are there any members in either house, save for those immediately involved in the business at hand. There is commonly not even a quorum, but that is usually overlooked.

The proposed rules also say that MPs should not place hats on the desk nor carry walking sticks, unless they need them to stay upright. However, nobody seriously believes that such rules will be observed.

Silence follows fireworks greeting Collor's fall



Fallen: Collor leaves after his impeachment

A STONY silence fell over this futuristic capital yesterday as President Collor de Mello of Brazil faced what are likely to be his final moments in power.

The fireworks are over and the crowds that roared for his removal have dispersed. The congress, where legislators voted overwhelmingly in a raucous session on Tuesday to remove Senhor Collor from office, settled back into almost a workaday routine.

An unknowing visitor might never imagine that just hours before, history was made here. Ever since Europeans reached Brazil in 1500, its leaders have been repeatedly yanked rudely from power, generally by coups. For once, a leader has fallen in accordance with the rule of law, and without bloodshed or social convulsion.

But behind the tranquil facade, Brasilia was grasping for a way to get through one of its most difficult moments. Tomorrow, Itamar Franco, the vice-president, is expected to take the oath of office and take over from Senhor Collor, who was deposed on Tuesday by 441 votes to 38 on the ground that he participated in a scheme of corruption engineered by his closest associates.

Senhor Collor, suspended

Mac Margolis writes from Brasilia on the task facing the new president

from office for the next 180 days, now must face an impeachment trial in the senate and possibly criminal charges as well. Few Brazilians predict that he will go to jail, but he must defend himself against charges that he condoned and even profited from Brazil's largest corruption scandal in memory.

Senhor Franco faces the daunting task of reviving the credibility of a government that has collapsed in disgrace. The economy, deep in recession and afflicted by 25 per cent monthly inflation, is virtually paralysed. The Brazilian people, who poured into the streets to get rid of Senhor Collor, wait anxiously for miracles from an untried president. The Collor cabinet is poised to resign, including the finance minister, Marilene Marques Moreira, widely seen as having saved the economy from collapse during the recent weeks of political tumult.

Many Brazilians wonder if Senhor Franco is up to the

task. A senior politician, who has served twice as a city mayor and several terms in the legislature, Senhor Franco was chosen as a running mate less for his dynamism than as someone likely to be quietly loyal to the president.

He must now build a new government and try to referee the various antagonistic forces that helped to bring down the Collor government. Businessmen, especially foreign creditors, fear that the power vacuum could mean the scrapping of important reforms. Many of those who voted to oust Senhor Collor for corruption also want to roll back the economic programme he began, such as reducing the bureaucracy and halting privatisation of state industry.

Senhor Franco, although criticised by some for his nationalistic positions in congress, has made efforts to dispel rumours that he intends radically to change course. "Itamar Franco's government cannot be too ambitious. He can only put the country back on track," Alexandre de Barros, a political analyst, said.

With a little over two years of Senhor Collor's mandate remaining, Senhor Franco may well be judged a success less for grand feats of policy than for simply avoiding a bigger disaster.



Elevated: Franco, the vice-president, takes over a struggling economy and a discredited government



Britain's wealth went to a safer place too

We had other precious assets in the war too, not least the country's financial reserves. With so many other things in imminent danger, Winston Churchill was not risking anything he did not have to.

So in 1940 HMS Emerald set off for the safety of Canada with the first shipment of the Bank of England's accumulated liquid assets and negotiable securities in its hold. Specifically, it was heading for the vaults of Sun Life of Canada in Montreal.



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Conor Cruise O'Brien

No yield for the brokers

Moves to bring peace to Ulster and Israel will fail on the basic issue of territory

Peter Brooks and James Baker are this week both grappling patiently with the intractable two sets of people — in Northern Ireland and what was formerly Palestine — contending for control of the same territory.

In 1938, ten years before the state of Israel came into existence, the Christian Arab nationalist writer George Antonius wrote: "No room can be made in Palestine for a nation except by dislodging or exterminating the nation in possession."

That dictum still applies, though the nation in possession is now Israel, which must be dislodged or exterminated if room is to be found for the Palestinian nation. No negotiation, however patient, will ever find its way around that.

The conflict in Northern Ireland is much older, but is essentially of the same order. In the early 17th century Irish Catholics were dislodged to make room for Protestant settlers from Britain. The British have long forgotten the Plantation of Ulster, but that transaction remains vivid in the minds of the descendants of the dislodged and settlers alike. The dislodged seek to reverse it, by force or guile; the descendants of the settlers hold on stubbornly to their territory. What looks like an irrational and pedantic fuss over the past week about the venue of the all-party talks on the future of the province reflects that underlying and irrepressible conflict of wills. It is an ancestral memory that will not go away.

Is there no middle ground then? There is, in both cases. But it is tricky middle ground, and not what it seems to be. In the late 1980s, for quite similar reasons, both the Palestinians and the Irish nationalists appeared to concede some ground. The Palestine Liberation Organisation, by accepting Security Council resolution 242, appeared to admit Israel's right to exist within secure and recognised frontiers. The Dublin government — with the advice and consent of the Social and Democratic Labour Party in the north — accepted the Anglo-Irish agreement which in Article 1 (A) asserts that the status of Northern Ireland will not be changed without the consent of the majority of its inhabitants.

In each case, however, there was a catch. Through their fundamental documents, both the PLO and the Dublin government remain committed to the annihilation respectively of the state of Israel and of Northern Ireland as a distinct polity. The PLO's fundamental document is the Palestinian National Covenant, first issued in 1934, revised in 1968 and never revoked, which declares that "Palestine with the boundaries it had during the British Mandate is an indivisible unit." Article 15 states: "The liberation of Palestine... aims at the elimination of Zionism."

The Irish equivalent of the Palestinian National Covenant is a product of the same decade: the Irish Constitution of 1937. Two of its articles are at the root of Mr Brooks's present troubles. Article 2 claims Northern Ireland as part of "the national territory". When the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed, that claim was held to be somehow suspended by Article 3, which confines the operation of the laws of the Irish state to its internationally recognised jurisdiction "pending the re-integration of the national territory". But five years later, on March 1, 1990, the Irish Supreme Court ruled that "the re-integration of the national territory" is "a constitutional imperative".

Both the Northern Ireland secretary and the American secretary of state have set themselves impossible tasks of reconciliation, but Mr Baker, unlike Mr Brooks, has another possible track.

The first track — Israel and the Palestinians — is impassable. But although difficult, the other track — Israel and the Arab states — might lead somewhere. The Arab states, after all, have always put their own interests well ahead of those of the Palestinians. Last week Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states did so when they agreed, at Washington's behest, to sit down with Israel (which is not particularly keen on sitting down with them).

The big fish, which Mr Baker can reasonably hope to land next year, in time for the American presidential election, is peace between Syria and Israel. President Assad has his lost territory, the Golan Heights, to play for, as Sadat of Egypt played for Sinai. In that respect, Damascus will certainly have noted a significant omission from the belligerent speech at the weekend by Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister. Mr Shamir vowed never to cede any part of the land of Israel. He specifically mentioned Judea, Samaria and Gaza, but he did not, in any reports I have seen, specifically mention the Golan Heights (though these have in the past been declared "annexed").

The best that either negotiator can hope to achieve this year is some kind of photocall. In Mr Baker's case, the participants are likely to be Israel, Syria and Egypt (all after much huffing and puffing), the Saudis, Kuwait, and Jordan. In Mr Brooks's case the photocall will be less colourful: himself, the Unionists and the SDLP. After that he would be wise to seek other responsibilities. The Unionists will not be seen sitting down with the Dublin government unless they know it is prepared to concede on Articles 2 and 3. Dublin, dominant in all that relates to Northern Ireland by the SDLP, the implacable descendants of the displaced Catholics, is not about to make any such concession.

This has been a mighty season for Third World disasters. The displaced Kurds, the cyclone in Bangladesh and the imminent catastrophe in Africa are a powerful cocktail. It is hardly surprising that people are talking about "compassion fatigue". But this misses the fundamental point. There has been a sea-change in people's perception of Third World disasters and their relationship to them.

The catalyst for this change was Live Aid in the mid-1980s. In the face of the horror of the Ethiopian famine, a simple message was conveyed: this is our problem too, and we can do something about it. The newness of the message was reflected in the novelty of the messenger — a coalition of pop stars, the young, television and the charities; politicians were sidelined. The Live Aid model has now achieved respectability, as last Sunday's Simple Truth concert for the Kurds demonstrated. All the political leaders and the Princes of Wales were there. It was like any old establishment occasion.

Lying behind all this is one simple but huge development. The Third World is no longer out there, akin to another planet, whose problems have nothing to do with us. On the contrary, because of television, it now shares our living rooms. Once word of faraway disaster took literally months to reach us. Now it is instantaneous. It is all part of that late 20th-century phenomenon we might describe as global contraction. The result is a feeling of interdependence.

Global contraction means more than a sense of greater proximity. Relationships too are changed. The process has been accelerated by the collapse of the communist world since 1989. Previously, countries were neatly categorised as first world, second or third. Because the communist world has all but disappeared, the wealthy nations of the First World now find themselves in a quite new relationship to the poorest countries.

One can track the changes through a series of signposts. First there was the perception of a new sense of responsibility for victims of Third World disasters through Live Aid. Then, with the collapse of the communist bloc and the enormous problems that now confront its former member states, there was recognition of their vulnerability and need for help. And finally, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, there is the Kurdish tragedy and the willingness of the international community at least to heed the rules of sovereignty. In short, the West finds itself in a position of quite new power, facing a world whose borders are suddenly far more porous.

Judging by the Live Aid phenomenon, that power is accompanied by a new sense of concern and responsibility. People want to help. Perhaps compassion fatigue of some kind will set in at some point, but that is not the experience so far. According to Michael Taylor, director of Christian Aid, Live Aid gave an enormous boost to Third World charities, and although revenue fell slightly afterwards, donations remain at a far higher level than they were before.

All this is to the good, but what about the potential downside? People continue giving but many become frustrated at the lack of results. They then want more

Why the rich dig deeper when disaster strikes

Martin Jacques records a simple truth: we really do care

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All this is to the good, but what about the potential downside? People continue giving but many become frustrated at the lack of results. They then want more

drastic forms of intervention, just as they did for the Kurds. Already there is a tendency to see the sufferers as hapless victims who can do little or nothing for themselves, and most Third World governments as corrupt and useless. African governments, for good reason, enjoy less esteem than at any time since independence. This is a recipe for old-style high-handedness or new-style colonialism: ignore the local structures and get on with the job oneself.

The need for more drastic forms of intervention is not in question. The Horn of Africa is a case in point. But the aim should be to strengthen the legitimacy of national governments rather than seek to undermine them. That means making aid conditional on the introduction of democracy.

We could also accept some of our own culpability for the state of the Third World. Over the past decade, as a result of the burden of debt, there has been a net transfer of resources from the poor countries to the rich. If we now see ourselves as part of a solution, we must remember we are also part of the problem.

Politicians should not run to the libel lawyer to defend their reputations, says Joe Joseph

Edwina's empty victory

God only knows what would have happened if Kitty Kelley had let herself loose on Edwina Currie. As it was, an itchy-bitsy film review in *The Observer* was enough to send the Conservative MP into a spin. She claimed that the article likened her to an unattractive character who undermines her marriage, sacrifices her family and resorts to murder to further her political career.

Some sniggers around dinner tables (where you can say almost what you wish without fear of lawsuits) might have thought Mrs Currie would blush to be so closely linked with a woman like Charlotte Rampling, who played the role to which Edwina thought she was being so unfavourably compared. But, as we have all known for a long time, politicians are not like the rest of us. They are more sensitive. At least when they are not the ones hurling the mud.

Isn't it time that vain politicians learned that libel cases, reported across front pages for days, keep alive supposed slights well beyond their forget-by date? That crying "foul" each time a twig is tossed their way is not dignified behaviour for adults in the public eye? Or maybe it is time Britain copied the practice in America, where Wisconsin street sweepers libelled by their local newspaper can still sue for millions but those who choose to become famous — like Nancy Reagan and Frank Sinatra (but not both together, of course) — have to prove not only that a distasteful piece in the media was false, but that it was published or broadcast out of pure malice? If it was not, they have little chance of winning their case in court. In Britain, by contrast, certain MPs seem to regard libel suits as almost a perk of the job.

Neil Kinnock, that champion of free speech, open debate, healthy discourse, lively conversation and a good old chinwag with the laity, is keeping his libel lawyers busy fighting off the capitalist press. The man who can think of at least five synonyms for every insult he hurled at John Major within the walls of the House has about seven outstanding writs against Fleet Street. A year ago Mr Kinnock pocketed "very substantial" undisclosed damages from the *News of the World* over an inaccurate



Was it worthwhile for a mere £5,000? Mrs Currie outside the High Court yesterday

claim that he had jumped the queue to secure a holiday for his family in Corfu in 1987. In 1989 he sued a *Wiltshire* businessman over reports that he was involved in angry scenes on a crowded Paddington-Cardiff train.

James Callaghan thought there were more important things in life. So did others. Lord Callaghan often tells the story of how Clement Attlee, shown a newspaper by an aide containing a rather vicious piece about him, hurried back the offending daily with the outburst: "What's England coming to?" It was a while before the aide realised that what had disgusted Attlee was not any apparent libel but England's dismal cricket score. Tony Benn, who has been pierced by so many

hurtful arrows that he is in great danger of turning into a colander, told me yesterday: "I prefer to fight my battles politically, rather than through the courts."

In what turned out to be one of the more preposterous cases of an MP suing for libel, Michael Meacher ended up with legal bills of around £200,000 after losing an action he brought against *The Observer's* political columnist, Alan Watkins, who had described him as a "louse" and accused him of being coy about his middle-class background to gain cachet in the Labour Party.

Watkins' article appeared in 1984. The case came to trial four years later. Last year Mr Watkins published *A Slight Case Of Libel*, an elegant and entertaining ac-

count of the whole affair. Thus, by bringing his action to court, Mr Meacher managed to keep alive for several years a painful newspaper paragraph that most *Observer* readers would have forgotten even more quickly than they did their Sunday morning brain flakes. His failure to win a libel case in a notorious and legal system that is notoriously biased in favour of the plaintiff has served only to make Mr Meacher look slightly more of a buffoon.

In a celebrated case of political thin skin, Aneurin Bevan, Richard Crossman and Morgan Phillips took *The Spectator* to court in 1957 over an article, entitled "Death in Venice", about the Italian Socialist party's congress there. The Labour trio complained

about a paragraph that read: "And there was the occasional appearance of Messrs Bevan, Morgan Phillips and Richard Crossman, who puzzled the Italians by their capacity to fill themselves like tanks with whisky and coffee... Although the Italians were never sure if the British delegation was sober they always attributed to them immense political acumen."

Isn't that a sort of compliment? Well, the judge and jury found against *The Spectator* and also attributed to the MPs £2,500 each, enough then for a London house, certainly for a decent yacht and a few cases of Glenlivet.

Labour politicians seem to be particularly sensitive. They even sue other MPs. Cyril Smith and Radio Trent were taken to court in 1982 by 25 Labour MPs. Led by Leo Abse, the lynch mob included Dame Judith Hart, Joan Maynard, Ian Mikardo and the velvet-tongued Dennis Skinner. Mr Smith had questioned their patriotism after they voted against the government and Mrs Thatcher's handling of the Falklands war. The case ended with an apology and payment of a small sum.

The £5,000 awarded to Mrs Currie yesterday, even the £40,000 won by Mr Neil Hamilton and Gerald Howarth against *Panorama's* allegations that they had close links with right-wing racist groups, are ranked, in legal terms, as something of a smudge. Certainly, a jury that awards only £5,000 has not taken very seriously the possibility that the plaintiff's reputation has been shattered. Perhaps the Rampling factor shrank the award. Either way, it is time to stop.

Hardly an objective bystander, but a spokesman for the Fleet Street Lawyers Society, a forum where media lawyers can swap details of their latest libel writs, says: "Those who live by the power of the press should be slow to reach for their lawyer. In America, public figures only sue in the most exceptional circumstances. Politicians in this country should spend more time upholding the right of free speech and less time suing newspapers."

But then how could newspapers tell if their taunts had really hit home?

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I wonder when I shall be able to go out again? I wonder when I shall stop looking radiant?

Some qualification is necessary here. An image, I know, has come into your head. Possibly of the Queen Mother. It will not help today's farrago. Radiant is not my description of how I look. Radiance might be closer: that man, you might say, were I able to go out again and let people look at me, is pumping out roentgens like there is no tomorrow, which in his case there very possibly isn't. You would then cross the road sharply. If you had children, you would gather them up and run.

For radiant is John Lewis's description of how I look. It describes a face which seems to have gone three rounds with Mike Tyson; indeed, a glance at my hands shows one of them apparently bruised enough to suggest that I even managed to get in the odd right jab before the lights went out.

But these brown blotches are not bruises at all. They are radiance. It said so on the sachet. This arrived last Saturday, in the envelope containing my monthly John Lewis statement, and it was gummed to a glossy leaflet with *Four Four* on it, beside a tasteful study of a blotchless radiant young woman inviting me to Discover The Secret of Sun-Free Tanning with something called *Esprit de Soleil*, available exclusively at the Lancôme Counter of John Lewis stores.

With *Esprit de Soleil*, the blotchless young woman contin-

ued, I could look radiant all year round. Most exciting of all, I could experience it now. All I had to do was apply the contents and wait three hours, remembering to wash my hands afterwards, because *Esprit de Soleil* contained oxybenzone.

I walked around for a bit, as anyone who was not entirely certain whether he wanted his face oxybenzoned. After the bit had expired, I noticed that the sachet was in fact a double, so I detached one half and rubbed its contents on the back of my hand in a test run. After three hours, the back of my hand had gone rather impressively tanned. Radiant, even. Since I had as yet put nothing on my face, you would not have thought, looking at me, that I had been in a fight. You would have thought: "This man is a concert pianist. He practises all day in a room where the sunlight falls only on the treble end of his Steinway."

Thus encouraged, I opened the other sachet and began smearing it on to my face. It was only then that I realised I might not be the *vous* it was *power*, since, unlike the tumble-tressed girl on the leaflet, I have a face which extends to the back of my neck. I needed a radiant head, too. There was, in short, not enough stuff to go round, or, rather, go over. Indeed, even unbleached men's heads must be bigger than women's, because I could manage no more than nose, forehead, one cheek and half a jaw before the sachet emptied. Never mind, I thought, being slightly radiant is better than not being radiant at all.

But I did not become slightly radiant. I became partially radiant.

It is Monday as I write, and I do not know what to do. You will say: "Run round to John Lewis and buy a whole bottle of the stuff," but I cannot do this. Even were I able to nerve myself to the assistant's muffled cackle at vanity's comeuppance, I doubt that I should be allowed to get as far as the Lancôme counter. For I have spent two solitary confined days pondering this affair, and I have reached the conclusion that this would be to play into John Lewis's hands. Not because I think all this was a trick to get me to shell out real money on a big jug of oxybenzone, but because I think it was a trick to get me to shell out real money for something else. I do not believe I shall get as far as the Lancôme counter. I believe that, as I enter, I shall be instantly identified, and pounced upon by John Lewis heavies.

For the bill accompanying the free sachet drew my attention to the fact that my account was now two months overdue. Can it be that John Lewis sends sachets only to his serious debtors? Knowing the irresistible lure of backache radiance, has John cunningly trapped us all into a self-stigmatisation curable only by his exclusive antidote, an item not available until settlement of outstanding bills is effected?

Might, in short, this radiant blotch on my forehead be nothing less than the mark of Cain?

Oxfam chief on the spot

Moves are afoot to oust Frank Judd as director of Oxfam following his elevation last month to the Lords, where he is likely to take a senior role on the Labour frontbench. Oxfam trustees, concerned that his high-profile political role is damaging fund-raising, are awaiting his return from Africa on Friday to discuss his future with him.

Senior staff at Oxfam had expected Judd, a former Labour minister, to announce his resignation as soon as his life peerage was announced. But he has made it clear that he has no intention of quitting the £30,000-a-year job, despite the charity commissioners' reprimand to Oxfam last week — not the first — for crossing the boundary into political activism.

Judd is seen by some colleagues as the principal architect of Oxfam's difficulties with the commissioners and fear the adverse publicity has resulted in potential donations being diverted to other charities. "There are early indications that money we would normally get is now going to Princess Anne's charity because of our heavy political and radical image," says one senior source.

Last year Oxfam raised £22 million. With the spate of disasters in the Middle East and Africa it is on target to surpass that figure this year, but many feel it could have raised even more.

Earlier this week Judd flew to Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan to assess the famine there and report on Oxfam's response. "He will meet the trustees early next week," says a spokesman. "Frank has never let his political allegiance interfere in any way with his running of the charity. But we have to discuss the implications of his elevation to the Lords and whether he can continue as director."



● Kenneth Clarke's performance on the *Wogan* show this week was distinctly unimpressive. If readers are unhappy to take the *Diary's* word perhaps they will believe Clarke's own staff. As the credits rolled, he turned to his private secretary and asked: "How was it?" "Smug," she replied.

Out to lunch

Si Bernard Ingham may be beginning to wish that the Cabinet Office censors had left a little more of his political memoirs on the cutting room floor. The BBC's education correspondent, Mike Baker, is about to sue him for libel.

In his book Ingham tells of a lunch in March 1989 at Booty's in St Martin's Lane at which, he says, Baker and BBC colleague Martin Dowle asked him whether Mrs Thatcher blamed Nicholas Ridley or Michael Howard for the adverse publicity over water privatisation. Three hours later the BBC was running a story pointing an accusing finger at Howard. Ingham wrote: "They even attributed all this to sources close to Number 10 and flashed up some film of me for good measure." Baker was made to suffer, Ingham went on, by being placed on a blacklist of those who would never again receive personal briefings. "Those who seek to impugn my integrity have to pay a price. And the more inconvenient the price for them the better."

One small problem: Baker was not at the lunch, and was not even a political correspondent at the time. But Ingham's mistake is understandable. When he began work on the memoirs in December he told this *Diary*: "I have not kept any diaries... It's all in my head."

Bubbling over

Trouble not at mill but, of all places, at Harrods. Because of a pay dispute, disgruntled staff are threatening to disrupt the champagne launch later this month of *The History of Society's Favourite Store*.

"Staff at society's favourite store don't feel very favoured at the moment," says a spokesman for the shopworkers' union, Unswa. As one potential picket put it: "They will be sloshing back the champagne while we're not allowed tea breaks any more."

Kendals of Manchester, another arm of the Al Fayeds' House of Fraser group, is equally unhappy about the book launch. Founded in 1796, some 50 years before Harrods, Kendals insists that it has a far better claim to be the world's top store. In 1919, when taken over, it changed its name to Harrods but, says a spokesman, was forced by popular demand to change it back again. "And what's

more, we have a very smart clientele, not like your average London tourist."

Kendals is certainly ahead in one respect: its staff have just been given a 5 per cent rise.

Band raid

Whitehall leak enquiries have become a bit of a joke: lots of noise when they are set, and then never another word. But ministers are so angry over the constant stream of leaks during the poll tax review that they sent a team of Inland Revenue investigators to the Commons press gallery yesterday. They questioned its crew of newspaper and broadcast journalists about the leak of a confidential circular last month proposing nine bands instead of seven — the figure Michael Heseltine had given to the Commons — for the government's new council tax.

An Inland Revenue spokesman would not confirm the belief of most Commons journalists that Norman Lamont, furious at reading the Department of Environment proposals in the press before they had been submitted to the Treasury, had personally sanctioned the raid. One senior lobby journalist said: "The enquiry is Revenue really think that journalists, who rely on confidentiality, are going to break those confidences? I cannot recall anything like this in the past 20 years."

● Are you or have you ever been a member of British intelligence? Not a question from a *Le Carré* spy thriller or even the KGB interrogation manual but a serious enquiry being put to potential jurors in Miami, where former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega goes on trial on drugs charges in July. And what of this time-leaser called from the *27-page* questionnaire: "Have you ever heard of George Bush?"

هكذا من الأصل



MRS MANDELA'S NEMESIS

The six-year sentence passed yesterday on Winnie Mandela was severe but not excessive. She had been found guilty of kidnapping and of being an accessory to assault by the Rand Supreme Court. Her conviction in a crime against four black youths, one of whom died, was proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Almost as disastrous to her case was her conduct during the trial and her lack of remorse. Her attempts to disown her bodyguards and to smear an innocent man convinced only a few of her closest supporters. Winnie Mandela has ruined herself, betrayed her husband and harmed her cause. Fighting apartheid has nothing whatever to do with such activities. It is to the credit of many black South Africans, including senior figures of the African National Congress, that they understood this and stayed aloof from the trial.

South African justice should emerge stronger from this test of its autonomy. The government had an interest in letting Mrs Mandela off as lightly as possible. Nelson Mandela believes in her innocence, and the government needs him and his name strong, popular and in command. The idea of a Mandela back in jail cannot have been welcomed by President de Klerk and his law and order minister Adriaan Vlok. Mr Justice Michael Stegmann, the trial judge, knew well that any custodial sentence for Mrs Mandela could bring violence in its wake.

A judicial system administered by a minority on behalf of a majority must, if it is to be credible, show a capacity for mercy. South Africa's has not often shown such mercy in the past, notably in the matter of reprieving those sentenced to death. Along with the separation of powers between executive and judiciary comes a division of duties. For the court to have taken political considerations into account in reaching its verdict or in passing sentence would have undermined the court's own claim to stand above the rival communities of South Africa, but never above the law.

It is no part of the judiciary's role to

interpret the law according to political interests. A state president is in a different position. He must exercise his power in the interests of social concord: the release of Mr Mandela himself was an example of this. Mrs Mandela will probably have to serve part of her sentence: less than two years in jail would be derisory, in view of the gravity of her offences. But even if her sentence is not reduced on appeal, she will be entitled to claim clemency from the head of state. Mr Mandela's comment on his wife's sentence yesterday, that "the last word has not been spoken", is correct.

In truth, Winnie Mandela's trial was a diversion from reality. South Africa is being transformed by a social upheaval which transcends the capacity of leaders even as dominant as Mr Mandela, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Mr de Klerk to impose on their followers. Disillusionment with the vacillating leadership of the ANC is general. There is also a glaring discrepancy between Chief Buthelezi's pacific rhetoric and the belligerent behaviour of his Inkatha impis. And Mr de Klerk has trouble in his backyard. Last Saturday police opened fire on white farmers who were attacking black squatters at Ventersdorp in the Transvaal.

Neither the bad news nor the good out of South Africa should, at present, be exaggerated. The recent urban violence, of which Mrs Mandela's entourage was just a small manifestation, is endemic not just to South African cities but to cities across the world. Publicising it because it is happening in Soweto, rather than Rio de Janeiro or Los Angeles or the Punjab, does not make it worse, or less sad, or more intractable.

Much naive optimism still overlays what is called the "negotiating process" in South Africa at present. This process is in its infancy. The chances of a constitutional formula being settled this year are minimal. And everything depends on the black population overcoming the failures of leadership which Mrs Mandela's trial brought to light.

STRETCHING EUROPE

Europe's political future is as uncertain as ever. Jacques Poos, the foreign minister of Luxembourg, has claimed a breakthrough in the tortuous negotiations to bring the seven countries of the European Free Trade Association together with the European Community in a 19-nation free trading block, stretching from the Arctic to the Mediterranean. It may now be possible, he hopes, to wind up the talks by June.

Allowing 18 months for treaty ratification, the Austrians, Swiss, Swedes, Danes, Finns, Icelanders and the burghers of Liechtenstein — hardly impoverished by their exclusion from the EC — could by 1993 also enjoy the four freedoms of the single market: the movement of labour, goods, capital and people. Countries such as Austria which belong naturally at the heart of Europe would no longer be excluded from the benefits of continental free trade, while still being spared the absurdities of a common agricultural policy.

A closer look throws doubt on Mr Poos's optimism. The structure of the proposed European Economic Area is far from complete. The two sides have still to define how the proposed joint court would work. They have not resolved the political objection of forcing EFTA to abide by rules drawn up only by the EC. Key issues such as fisheries, lorry transit and EFTA cash for poor EC countries remain to be decided. The Icelanders do not want their rich fishing waters opened to all comers. The Swiss have put reservations beside even bland declarations of principle. Nothing yet suggests that an agreement is near or that it is worth pursuing as an alternative to EC membership.

The EEA was proposed two years ago by Jacques Delors. His aim was to give the Community's non-communist neighbours

access to the single market, while forestalling a rash of applications which he believed the Community could not handle. At the time it seemed a good idea. The federalist EC members wanted a pause to deepen their own structures first, and feared a dilution by neutral Alpine and Scandinavian members. Britain wanted to share the benefits of 1993 with its former EFTA partners, still the Community's largest trading partner. The seven are rich, homogeneous and have high or higher industrial, environmental and social security standards than the EC. Negotiations looked easy.

Now the plan seems less attractive. The East European revolutions of 1989 removed many of the neutrals' objections to full EC membership. Austria has applied, Sweden is about to. Even Switzerland is wondering whether its 700-year neutrality can best be guarded by remaining an introverted island in the EC sea. EFTA now fears Brussels is trying to fob it off with a second-class membership, building in clauses to inhibit eventual application. Most now see the EEA as only a transitional arrangement. Even if an agreement can be salvaged in time, it may be hard to sell to public opinion in all seven countries.

Since a deal with EFTA would make individual membership negotiations less arduous and could set a pattern for the East Europeans, the talks are worth pursuing. Mr Poos should drop his grandiloquent claims of success, and Brussels should strive again to meet the real objections of its potential partners. The Swiss too should practise at home the art of compromise they preach so often to world organisations. The EC needs the pragmatism, and the scepticism towards fancy political institutions, of its European neighbours; and the sooner the better.

ROYAL AMBASSADOR

The average pump attendant in Nebraska may not be sure of the exact distinction between Margaret Thatcher and "Queen Elizabeth" — as he is likely to call the British monarch. Suggestions that some Americans are taken back to find themselves visited by the latter — they thought she had abdicated last November — are surely apocryphal. But they will certainly have heard of both. They are the only living foreign ladies most of them could confidently name.

The nostalgia for royalty and the thrill the visit has generated was summed up by *The Washington Post* when it commented: "She's not our Queen but before we're through with her, she'll probably think she is." The Queen knows her family history better than that. As well as attending her first "ball game" this direct descendant of George III is about to become the first British monarch to address both Houses of Congress. But rather than apologise for her ancestor's moment of carelessness with the 13 colonies, she will surely rejoice in the paradox of a royal *felix culpa* which gave birth to the world's greatest nation.

The British public may watch the phenomenon of a royal state visit to the United States with some of the ironic amusement it reserves for this curious detail of the "special relationship" between the two peoples. It will take pleasure in the warmth of it, and pride in the tributes of an event timed to celebrate the successful military collaboration in freeing Kuwait.

The relationship has never been more secure and needs no repairing, and the two countries seek no favours of each other beyond those that come naturally. There is nothing more strenuous on the agenda than

some reciprocal flattery and curiosity. The great vice and virtue of the American character is the desire to be liked. The strength of the Crown is its aloofness from such desire. Its independence of popularity and the polls lends it a timeless security. The monarchy of a democratic state derives its potency from this very lack of electoral legitimacy. By their democratic principles Americans should disregard a non-elected head of state completely, but paradoxically it gives this particular head a curious hold on their imagination. How could such strange constitutional ways be possible?

Great is the interest, therefore, in seeing the impossible in action. The Queen will pay the formal compliments which belong to such solemn occasions. But for once she will mean them, and she should speak for her kingdom in meaning them. The British sometimes tend to rehearse America's faults and absurdities with relish, reflecting a secret envy that does no justice to either country. Their common origins, shared language, parallel histories and frequent partnerships on the world stage in the cause of right deserve to be celebrated without that sniff of superiority on the British side which many Americans are shrewd enough to guess at, but usually too polite to mention.

No relationship can ever really be called special unless it is also of the heart. That was the spirit in which the Queen landed in Washington yesterday, and in which America received her. Rather than the self-interested courtships of governments, a royal visit can represent an exchange of affection between entire peoples, in this case lightly spiced with mutual astonishment.

'Stealth' on road to federal Europe

From Dr Edmund Goldberger

Sir, Your leader of May 13, "EMU by stealth", puts European union and the winding roads towards it into admirable (and much neglected) perspective. EMU inevitably leads to a European central bank and single currency. This means that all EC countries surrender their monetary policies to a central institution: without them fiscal policies cannot be effective.

Active participation in this process does not make the progression, once embarked upon, inevitable. But it will give the process more legitimacy, sustaining momentum and consolidation and leading inexorably to a political federalism of Europe. Inevitably, because this will be seen as the necessary and natural corollary.

This country (as was Mrs Thatcher) is fully committed to the economic integration of the 1992 Single Market and wants it to succeed. A federal state of Europe, instituted from above, is not a mechanical contrivance imposed on countries with their own national identities, social attitudes, traditions, languages. It is a living area of national families, not a constitutionally re-engineered series of geographical and economic extensions.

The spectre of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, the only federal states of various nations, now in turmoil and possible disintegration by nationality, should be an awesome warning. M. Delors, an ingenious politician, and his supporters bear gifts of a future by stealth. Vision is indeed needed. It should propel thought, not abolish it.

Yours truly,
EDMUND GOLDBERGER,
20 Albion Gate, W2,
May 13.

From Mr Derek Prag, MEP for Hertfordshire (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Your leader makes the Bruges Group mistake of confusing federal-type solutions with centralisation. In fact, they are poles apart. Nobody — but nobody — in the European Community wants a centralised Europe. A very substantial majority, however, believes in a modest degree of federalism — that is, that there are certain things which

we can do better as a Community, acting jointly, than as states acting separately. The environment is an example; foreign policy is another. Federalism implies states' rights, not centralisation. The extent of those rights is different in the different federations: it is perfectly obvious that, in a European union of happily diverse nations, with their own languages and cultures, they will be greater than in federations like the United States, Germany or Canada.

It is difficult to understand how, faced with the outstanding economic success of these three federations, you can state baldly that "the union of states in a strong federal economy is not a natural route to prosperity." Natural or not, it looks a pretty good route to me!

You also make the extraordinary statement that the EC "is against external free trade, for the labour protectionism of the social charter, against subsidiarity, for industrial cartels." On balance, the existence of the EC has been probably the greatest bulwark of free trade at a time when, if it had not existed, the temptations of protectionism would have been very great indeed.

As for subsidiarity, it was the European Parliament that in its draft Treaty of European Union of 1984 revived this obscurely named principle as a means — useful though not infallible — of avoiding excessive federal-type encroachment on the prerogative of the member states. The principle is now generally accepted by everyone in the EC institutions, including Jacques Delors.

The latest Eurobarometer survey (carried out in March, by NOP in the UK) shows Britons massively in favour of efforts to unify Western Europe, a single currency, a common foreign policy and a European rapid-development force. That plus stronger democratic control — is essentially what the intergovernmental talks among the Twelve are about.

The British public is telling John Major to go right ahead on his present path. Yours faithfully,
DEREK PRAG,
Pine Hill, 47 New Road,
Digswell, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Promoting tobacco

From the Chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association

Sir, Your report on May 7 concerning the proposed EC ban on tobacco advertising in the press highlighted the glib and prejudiced statements emanating from Brussels. I recognise fully the medical dangers of smoking, but no advantage will be gained by anyone as a result of attributing the persistence of the habit to advertising.

Fundamental arguments being used in Brussels are, first, that cigarette consumption decreases in countries where tobacco advertising is banned. Second, the banning of categories of advertising does not adversely affect the economics of newspapers and magazines. Both arguments are completely fallacious.

The facts are that in many countries permitting tobacco advertising, cigarette consumption has decreased. The accompanying table shows percentage changes in consumption between 1975 and 1989 in countries that permit cigarette advertising.

In Portugal, Italy and Iceland which have banned advertising, cigarette consumption has increased

in the same period despite the ban. Only in Finland and Norway has cigarette consumption decreased.

Advertising does not stimulate or maintain cigarette consumption levels. Research evidence shows that the influence of advertising expenditure on large consumer markets is negligible, other than at brand level.

The Brussels claim that banning any category of advertising in the press does not adversely affect the economics of newspapers and magazines is patently untrue. Anybody concerned with the finances of publishers knows only too well that any percentage loss in advertising revenue has a disproportionately adverse impact on the profit margins of newspapers and magazines.

Yours etc.
FRANK ROGERS, Chairman,
The Newspaper Publishers Association Ltd.,
34 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1.

Voting reform

From Mr Jeremy Smith

Sir, Your leading article (May 6) was correct in de-bunking the Liberal Democrats' expectation of power in a hung Parliament. After all, what could they do if either party refused proportional representation? To throw out Labour would win them little but the stigma of putting the Tories back in. To throw out the Conservatives would lose them the Tory protest voters, angered, but adamantly opposed to a Labour government.

A second general election would raise the question of the Liberal

Democrats' financial ability to fight a second time at short notice. Nor would the public relish the necessity of voting again, especially when health, local taxation, the environment, etc., appear of equal importance to PR.

Could Liberal Democrats speak with credibility again on those topics, having relegated them to post-election horse-trading and power-broking? Yours sincerely,
JEREMY SMITH,
City of London Polytechnic,
Department of Politics and Government,
Calcatta House,
Old Castle Street, E1.

Hospital referrals

From Mr J. Meirion Thomas

Sir, The dean of the medical school of St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, Professor Richards, appeals to St Mary's graduates to refer patients from all over the country to preserve the hospital's teaching status and financial viability (report, May 6).

As a cancer surgeon working at two London teaching hospitals I write to stress that a distinction must be drawn between general patients and tertiary referrals. For many years general patients with non-specialist illnesses have been referred by their general practitioners to London teaching hospitals largely to bypass provincial waiting lists. Such patients should be treated promptly and expertly in their own districts and if that means that hospitals like St Mary's become unviable then they and their huge resources should be moved to areas of the country deprived of such expertise.

In contrast, a tertiary referral is almost always a consultant-to-consultant referral and the right of referring consultants and patients with rare or complex illnesses to be transferred to specialist units anywhere in the country must be preserved. Furthermore their referral must not be delayed, while contractual approval is obtained or

influenced by the wishes of the referring health authority who will eventually pay the bill.

Yours sincerely,
J. MEIRION THOMAS
(Consultant surgeon, Westminster and Royal Marsden hospitals),
Westminster Hospital,
Horseferry Road, SW1,
May 7.

From Mr Nicholas Waterhouse

Sir, There is no cardiac surgery unit west of Bristol, and that unit is only big enough to serve patients within the city area. As a result, all other adult patients in the South-west facing heart surgery are forced to make the long and stressful trek to the east end of London. Worse, their families must go there to visit them. The health service contributes nothing to the expenses of these journeys.

There are surgeons keen to work in this area, a demand which would keep a modern surgical unit fully loaded, one of the most modern hospitals in Britain with ample room to expand, and the land and other cost structures to do what the patients so desperately want, at a

Lawyers complain of double taxation

From Mr John Gardiner, QC, and others

Sir, The Finance Bill in the Commons contains provisions intended to restore retrospectively the validity of regulations which had the effect of raising some £250 million in tax from the building societies. The regulations were quashed last year by the House of Lords, in proceedings brought by the Woolwich Building Society (report, October 26, 1990).

We were engaged as counsel in those proceedings. We are most concerned that the statements now being made by government spokesmen in support of the proposed legislation flatly contradict what was decided by the courts in the Woolwich case.

The House of Lords decided firstly, that the effect of the regulations was to tax again income, arising from interest on savings, which had already been fully taxed in the previous year — a result which Mr Justice Nolan had described as unprecedented and "truly astonishing"; secondly, that because of an earlier retrospective amendment (in 1986) Parliament must be deemed to have approved that result; but thirdly, that the regulations were still invalid for a separate (though related) reason.

The House of Lords thus clearly found that the regulations gave rise to "double taxation" of the societies. We find it very surprising that ministers continue to assert that they do not, and that the govern-

ment's proposals are necessary to prevent the societies receiving a "windfall" — a proposition which was described by Lord Lowry in the House of Lords as "spurious".

We find it even more surprising that Lord Hesketh should recently have told the House of Lords that in their judicial capacity they had rejected the proposition that the regulations involved double taxation (Hansard, April 30, 1991, col. 613).

It is true that the House of Lords in the Woolwich case held that the 1986 amendment had had the effect of validating double taxation of the societies. But in the leading speech Lord Oliver voiced a tentative doubt whether Parliament had really appreciated that the 1986 amendment had that effect. Had he been permitted to consult Hansard (July 17, 1986), he would have seen that Parliament was expressly assured that it did not do so.

It may be unusual for counsel in a case to become involved in any subsequent political debate. However, we are very anxious that the apparent complexity of the issues should not permit ministers to explain the new measure in a way which has the effect, in our view, of misrepresenting the decisions of the courts.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GARDINER,
NICHOLAS UNDERHILL,
JONATHAN PEACOCK,
11 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
May 9.

Cranwell, 1941

From Mr Peter W. Esling

Sir, Fifty years ago tomorrow, at Cranwell, I flew my first solo in an Airspeed Oxford and Sir Frank Whittle's first jet aircraft made its maiden flight — in that order chronologically, though not in importance.

The unheralded appearance on the airfield of this slim, yellow, experimental machine gave rise to intense speculation, not least as to its method of propulsion. It had a hole at the nose, where a propeller should have been, and a hole at the rear, whence a powerful shimmering exhaust beat down a swathe of grass in the wake of the aircraft as it taxied about the field, to the accompaniment of the banshee wail and whistle which much later was to become so familiar.

Little did we realise what an

historic event we were privileged to observe when later we heard the wail intensify and saw the aircraft take off, using but a fraction of Cranwell's massive (for its time) runway, which had been laid down especially for the record-breaking Wellesley flight of February 1933. Prop or no prop, it could certainly fly, and at speeds on this and subsequent flights which we found hard to believe.

Apart from sharing the date and the place, my flight and that of the jet had this in common — neither received national publicity for years to come.

Yours reminiscently,
PETER W. ESLING
(1379789 LAC Esling, P.W.),
3 Llynnewydd Cottages,
Dreifach Felindre,
Llanysul, Dyfed.
May 14.

ITV franchises

From Mr William King

Sir, There will be further heavy publicity for the ITV franchise application procedure as bids are delivered on May 15. All thoughts are directed to the franchisees, and who will win them.

Hopefully, the losers should not all go away empty-handed. Independent television production and even a revival of UK film production are alternatives for the would-be Channel 3 investors and lenders. Of course the economics and the prizes available in these alternatives are not the same as in Channel 3, but they exist, and the fulfilment which new money could provide to these sectors would lead to a resurgence in activity, to an improved ITV and BBC, and to the UK taking a leading place in Europe's film and television plans.

So, when the results are announced, it should not be a case of spare a thought for the losers, but instead find a way to divert their money to other parts of the industry. Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM KING,
Macfarlanes (Solicitors),
10 Norwich Street, EC4.

Manipulative moggies

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, Mrs John Nichols's letter (May 10) about the ministry view of cats reminded me of the story of the old farmer who said that his favourite animals were pigs. When asked to explain this unusual preference he replied that dogs look up to you, cats look down on you, but "pigs is equal".

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Ambury Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge.
May 10.

Badminton cabinet

From the Chairman of the National Art Collections Fund

Sir, Tomorrow afternoon their lordships are debating the funding of the arts in Britain. This is timely in three days the export stop on the Badminton cabinet runs out. The history of the cabinet over the last year has shown how our export control has ceased to function as it was intended. The Export Advisory Committee recommended that the cabinet should remain in Britain, and yet, as I write, it seems almost certain that it will leave these shores.

Neither private sources nor the grant-making bodies are able to move these exceptional works of art which rarely appear on the market. If nothing is done we shall continue to see the draining away of our greatest artistic treasures. I hope that the government will dip into its contingency reserve for the sake of future generations.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOODISON,
Chairman,
National Art Collections Fund,
20 John Islip Street, SW1.
May 14.

Thatcher and home

From Mrs Fiona Bickerton

Sir, Contrary to Mrs Thatcher's amazing comments in her first non-prime ministerial interview (letter, May 11), surely home is the haven to which we return where there is everything to do.

Yours sincerely,
FIONA BICKERTON,
Smallberry Hill Farm,
Hadlow Down,
Uckfield, East Sussex.
May 10.

From the Head Master of St Peter's School, York

Sir, I prefer the definition by William Barclay, the Scottish theologian: Home is the place where they know us at our worst and still love us.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN PITTMAN, Head Master,
St Peter's School, York.
May 11.

Disapproval in church

From Mrs Anne Jeacock

Sir, I once heard a former Bishop of the Yukon state that, at the beginning of every sermon, he said that if he did not strike oil in five minutes he stopped boring.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE JEACOCK,
Keys House, Keys Lane,
Priors Marston, Warwickshire.
May 10.

Looking askance

From Mr Phillip Austen

Sir, Why do publishers print the title of some books sideways on the spine? Not only does it give me a stiff neck when perusing bookshelves it also causes me to bump into people.

Yours sincerely,
PHILLIP AUSTEN,
23 Westgate, Sleaford,
Lincolnshire.

From Mrs P. M. Nevard

Sir, If Professor Richards could arrange some moderately priced London accommodation, I am sure he could guarantee a steady supply of NHS outpatients, starting with me, from the provinces and shires. Yours faithfully,

P. M. NEVARD,
2 Selwyn Close, Radbrook,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
May 6.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

6.00 Ceeba 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
8.05 Gloria Liza. Gloria Hunniford's guests include the parents of Helen Sharman, soon to be Britain's first woman in space 9.45 Dish of the Day. Recipes and cookery hints 9.55 It's Easy. A guide to...
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 Stoppit and Tiddit (r) 10.35 Turnabout (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 People Today
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Happy Memories. Cliff Michelson and Wendy Gibson reminisce about their memories with music and archive film 12.20 Scene Today from Pabbie Mill 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.05 Neighbours. (Ceeba) 1.50 Turnabout. Word association game
2.15 Kernal Landings. Glossy American soap set in a California out-dated... (Ceeba) 3.05 The Making Season. A Forty Minutes documentary following the fortunes of a party of love-lorn women from Chicago, on a trip to Lidoconville in Ireland's County Clare, in search of husbands (r)
3.50 Henry's Cat (r) 3.55 Wildcat. Mark Evans and Violet Berlin are joined by a Hungarian pull, a porcupine and a pygmy hippo 4.10 Liri Bits 4.35 The Movie Game. Video quiz show for young movie enthusiasts
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Country Boy. The first of a six-part drama series about a Kent sheep-farming family who are directly affected when a local chemical company dumps refuse into a river (r) (Ceeba)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceeba) Northern Ireland: Sportsworld 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Star O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. Weather
6.50 Regional news magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours



Agatha Christie's Belgian super-sleuth: Peter Ustinov (7.00pm)

7.00 Film: Evil Under the Sun (1982). Murder-mystery yarn starring Peter Ustinov as Agatha Christie's Belgian super-sleuth Hercule Poirot. A group of wealthy socialites and their entourage have gathered on an idyllic island and Poirot is called to investigate the murder of a young woman. The film is a pastiche of Agatha Christie's style, with Poirot's iconic white turban and the island setting. Directed by Guy Hamilton. (Ceeba)
8.50 Points of View with Anne Robinson
9.00 News O'Clock News with Michael Buck. (Ceeba) Regional news and weather
9.30 Inside Story: A Very Serious Offence.
CHOICE: The strength of Olivia Lichtenstein's documentary about rape is her ability to get people to talk about their experiences, although some of the faces are understandably distressed. She deftly intercuts the stories of two women, related to total candour and lack of embarrassment, with the thoughts of a convicted rapist serving a life sentence. But at the heart of the film is a fly-on-the-wall account of a police investigation into an 18-year-old woman's allegation that she was raped by three men in south London. It brings out clearly the more sympathetic approach by the police since the notorious Thames Valley programme (quoted here) caused an outcry a few years back. It also brings out the grey areas, the difficulty of collecting evidence and the reluctance of victims to risk being in the courts. It is little wonder that probably nine rapists out of ten are not even reported. (Ceeba)
10.30 Sportsworld. Steve Rider introduces action from tonight's European Cup Winners' cup final in Rotterdam between Manchester United and Barcelona, plus an extended look at this weekend's FA cup final between Tottenham Hotspur and Nottingham Forest, and the Scottish cup final between Motherwell and Dundee United. There is also a profile of the talented batsman Graeme Hick, newly-qualified to play for England
11.30 Film: Far East (1982). Romantic drama starring John Bell and Helen Morse as Australian journalist Peter Reeves and his wife Jo. They visit a night club run by a Vietnamese veteran (Morgan Kelly) (Ceeba) 11.45 The Last Days of Pompeii. A historical drama about the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Directed by John Dugan. 1.00am Weather

BBC 2
7.10 Open University: Pine Point - A Lead-Zinc Deposit. Ends at 7.35
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two
9.25 Cross Wits. Tom O'Connor hosts the word game with celebrity guests 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion series
10.40 The Morning. Forty magazine programme presented live from Liverpool's Albert Dock by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan
11.00 Alberts. Children's entertainment (r)
12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 Thames News and weather
1.20 Home and Away 1.50 A Country Practice
2.20 Take the High Road. Soap set in the Scottish Highlands 2.50 Win, Lose or Draw. Danny Baker hosts the pen and paper charades game
3.15 The News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors
3.55 The Raggy Dolls (r) 4.05 Bangers and Mash (r) 4.15 But Can You Do It On TV? Michele Strachan hosts a new series of the children's music talent contest 4.40 Patrice Hill. Offbeat school comedy about a princess from another planet who crashlands her spaceship in the school corridor
5.10 Blockbusters. Bob Holmes hosts the general knowledge quiz for teenagers
5.40 News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Home and Away. Australian community soap (r)
6.25 Thames News and weather
6.40 Coronation Street. More scenes of northern life from Weatherfield. After losing her council seat to Alf, Doreen is humiliated and out of a job. (Oracle)
7.10 The Match - European Cup Winner's Cup Final. Manchester United v Barcelona. Live coverage from the Feyenoord Stadium, Rotterdam, of the game between Manchester United and Barcelona. Ironically, United's only chance of playing in Europe again next season is if they win this competition. Eton Waley presents the programme, with commentary by Brian Moore and Manchester United legend Denis Law
NB: The following programme times are subject to alteration if the match goes into extra time
9.15 Film: Von Ryan's Express (1965). Fast-paced prisoner-of-war adventure starring Frank Sinatra and Trevor Howard as an American army colonel and a British officer who lead the breakout from a German POW camp. A commander a freight train and make a dash from Nazi-occupied Italy to freedom in neutral Switzerland. With Sergio Fantoni, Edward Mulhare, Raffaele Carrà and Brad Dexter. Directed by Mark Robson. Continues after the News
10.00 News at Ten with Alistair Burnet and Trevor McDonald (Oracle)
10.30 Thames News and weather
10.40 Film: Von Ryan's Express continued
12.10am News. News and current affairs from a religious perspective with Nick Stuart (r)
12.40 Film: The Skull (1988). Bizarre horror starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, originally titled The Skull of the Marquis de Sade, but shortened after complaints from Sade's descendants. Professor Merland buys a book bound in the skin of the Marquis and is later offered his skin in return for a series of gruesome murders. Directed by Freddie Francis
2.15 Videofashion. Featuring the softer feel of the latest summer fashions from Italy, models from France and America and a look at how hard-edged masculine designs are giving way to softer menswear
2.40 America's Top Ten
3.10 The Night. The top and club quiz show, hosted by Martin Roberts
3.40 Stephen King's This is Horror. Horror in outer-space as depicted in a sequence of zero-gravity terror. Plus interviews with the makers of The Dead Zone, The Fly, The Exorcist and Scanners
4.10 Soccer in the 70s. Gary Lineker takes a look back to the memorable season of 1977-78 with soccer stars of the Seventies
4.40 The Night. The top and club quiz show, hosted by Martin Roberts
5.00 Grand Ole Opry. Country music from Nashville, Tennessee
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson. Ends at 6.00



Walking on vanished water: a former sea captain (8.10pm)

8.10 Water Wars: The River of Life.
CHOICE: An illuminating series on the politics of water concludes in the Soviet Union. Michael Elliott's film recalls, symbolically, how Mikhail Gorbachev's rise to power was helped by a meeting with the Soviet old guard, Brezhnev, Andropov and Chernenko, in a spa resort in 1978. Now, 13 years later, water is literally at the heart of the popular rejection of communism. It also, Elliott argues, lies at the root of claims to sovereignty by the Soviet Union's ethnic groups. His main illustration is the Aral sea in central Asia, only 30 years ago the largest inland sea in the world but since shrunk by nearly half. Fishing villages have vanished and the exposed sea bed is littered with rusting ships. The culprit is cotton, a thirsty crop which feeds on the rivers that used to feed the sea. The film is a masterpiece of maintaining cotton production has been a key factor in the revival of Central Asian nationalism and of Islam
9.00 M*A*S*H. Rumours run riot at the 407th on recruitment of staff for a new unit (r)
9.25 The Paper Man: The Rules of the Game. Philip Cromwell continues his ruthless race to the top of the media pile as he turns his sights on the Evening News. With Peter Dinklage, John Wood, and John Wood. Directed by John Wood. Continues after the News
10.15 Film: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1981). A classic horror film about a man who becomes a monster. Directed by John Wood. Continues after the News
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 The Last Show. The future of the cultural boycott of South Africa is discussed by, among others, Bishop Trevor Huddleston and Professor Christo Weyer, head of the South African Broadcasting Corporation 11.55 Weather
12.00 Open University: Literature in the Modern World - The Island. An Historic Place 12.25am Structuring Decisions. Ends at 12.55

ITV
6.00 TV-am
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5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson. Ends at 6.00



Playing his old club: Manchester United's Mark Hughes (7.10pm)

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CHANNEL 4
6.00 The Channel Four Daily includes a report from the Cannes Film Festival
9.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily introduced by Suanah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children (r)
2.00 Gallery. A repeat run of the arts quiz show hosted by George Melly
2.30 Channel 4 Racing from York. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.05, 3.40 and 4.10 races
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Quick-fire elimination quiz
5.00 Famous for 4 Minutes. Andy Warhol's famous utterance about the media one day making everyone famous comes one step closer to reality here with two more previously unknowns provided with their short quota of stardom
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Vigilantes in Missouri. The townspeople of Skidmore in Missouri took the law into their own hands ten years ago when bully Ken McElroy was gunned down in the broad daylight. The identity of the assassin - or assassins - has never been discovered, but Oprah attempts to shed some light on the mystery
6.00 A Different World: Love Thy Neighbour. American college campus sitcom
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. From the deck of the luxury yacht Sulu, moored in Cannes, Jonathan Ross meets Robin Gibb and Bill Duke, stars of Raging Harlem being screened at the film festival
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jan Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather
7.50 Party Political Comment from a Liberal Democratic politician
8.00 Brookside. Drama from the Liverpool out-cast. (Teletext)
8.30 Dispatches. A repeat of the edition shot last November profiling Mrs Thatcher's press secretary Bernard Ingham, arch-manipulator of the media. The prime minister's press secretary, as a civil servant, is required to remain politically neutral yet as John Birt MP points out Ingham used non-attributable lobby briefings to rubbish Cabinet colleagues and in many cases prepare the way for their downfall. Among those interviewed are Joe Haines, Sir Donald Maitland, Anthony Evans, Simon Hoggart and Ian Aitken
8.15 Re-Play: The Return of Neville Dadd. The series of short plays continues with this drama by Paul Goetzee. Neville (Simon Schatzberger) is killed in a motorbike accident and his vital organs are used to save the life of Jenny Quick (Sarah Smith). Neville's friend Jimmy (Ian Dacre) is then rather disturbed to receive a message from his deceased pal to the effect that he would like the organs back (r)
9.30 The Beer Hunter: Our Daily Beer. Professional beer enthusiast Sula, moored in Cannes, Jonathan Ross meets Robin Gibb and Bill Duke, stars of Raging Harlem being screened at the film festival
10.00 The Golden Girls: Star's Return. Witty, barbed American sitcom about four matrons sharing a Miami home. (Teletext)
10.30 Josie. Comedy show with actress and improviser Josie Lawrence 11.00 Manhattan Cable. Includes the 21st episode Madonna film who follows her obsessively and dresses in drag to look like her husband drivers talk frankly about who and what they have had in the back of their cars



Political activists: Sushmita and Swastika Chatterjee (11.45pm)

11.45 Film: The Home and the World (1984).
CHOICE: The Satyajit Ray season continues with a long-awaited project, an adaptation of the novel by fellow Bengali Rabindranath Tagore setting an emotional triangle against Indian political ferment in the early years of the century. Victor Banerjee, best known to wider audiences for David Lean's A Passage to India, plays a wealthy landowner who persuades his wife (Swastika Chatterjee) to break out of the social seclusion demanded by Hindu tradition. He introduces her to a militant nationalist leader (Sushmita Chatterjee, in his thirteenth film for Ray) bent on ending British colonial rule. Captivated by the man's charm, she falls in love with him and is swept into the cause. The film is long and talkative but it is directed with subtlety and an easy grace and has superbly orchestrated playing by the three principals. Ends at 12.15am

ANGLIA
As London except: 6.00pm-6.40pm
12.10 The Great British Bake Off
12.30 Quiz Night 1.05 America's Top Ten
1.35 Schindler's List 3.50 New Power Generation 4.20 Fifty Years On 4.40 Nashville Being 5.40 and 6.30
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M&S makes £616m profit

MARKS & Spencer, Britain's biggest high street retailer, has ridden through the recession with pre-tax profits up 1.9 per cent to £616 million, after charging £16 million for redundancies that will save £9 million in a full year (Graham Searjeant writes).

Turnover rose 3 per cent to £5.77 billion. British sales increased 3.8 per cent to £4.95 billion. North American sales fell 12 per cent to £508 million. Richard Greenbury, the chairman, said: "with hindsight, we probably paid too much for Brooks Brothers".

After a "disastrous" British sales in January and February, March was a good month but April was poor. Mr Greenbury said M & S was not expecting any rapid recovery in consumer spending but "there is all to play for". No further redundancies are planned in Britain.

The dividend has been raised from 6.4p to 6.7p, from earnings up from 14.5p to 14.7p per share.

Comment, page 23

Hanson dispels acquisition hope

Hanson dampened prospects of an imminent major acquisition by stating that although it continued to assess opportunities, current share prices did not reflect lower earnings prospects. The Anglo-American industrial and mining company reported taxable profits up from £570 million to £588 million for the half year to end March.

Profits were helped by the first full contribution from Peabody Coal and four months from Cavenham Forest Products, which was acquired from Sir James Goldsmith in exchange for a 49 per cent stake in Newmont Mining. Profits for the second quarter were £347 million, against £345 million. First-half earnings rose from 8.9p a share to 9.4p. The interim dividend is increased from 3p a share to 3.15p. Hanson shares fell from 22.5p to 22.15p.

Times, page 23

US dollar
1.7385 (+0.0080)
German mark
2.9563 (-0.0115)
Exchange Index
91.8 (same)

FT 90 Share
1925.3 (-17.3)
FT-SE 100
2463.7 (-22.9)
New York Dow Jones
2888.88 (-35.56)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
26030.08 (-63.12)

RISES:
Jacques Vert 155p (+17p)
Wellcome 530p (+9p)
Boehringer Group 845p (+15p)
FALLS:
Smithkline Beech 787p (-23p)
Siebe 405p (-3p)
Sun Alliance 321p (-13p)
Royal 312p (-9p)
Ladbroke 273p (-8p)
Alexon 581p (-10p)
Harvey & Thompson 312p (-9p)
Standard Chart 357p (-12p)
Nat West 313p (-10p)
Bass 94p (-23p)
Grand Met 784p (-15p)
Eurotunnel Unit 465p (-10p)
Rothmans 'B' 855p (-10p)
United Newspapers 340p (-13p)
Read Int 412p (-11p)
Brent Walker 27p (-13p)
Charter Cons 451p (-9p)
Closing Prices...Page 27

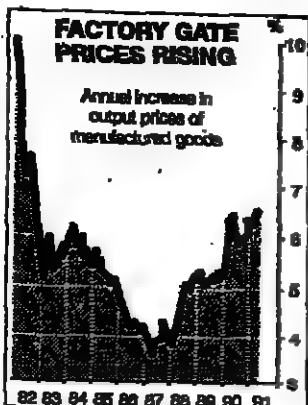
INTEREST RATES:
London: Bank Base: 12%
3-month interbank 11 1/4-11 1/2%
3-month eligible bid 11 1/4-11 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/2-5 3/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 5.5-5.49%
30-year bonds 9 7/8-9 7/8%

CURRENCIES:
London:
\$ \$1.7385
£ DM 1.7008
£ Sfr 1.4317
£ FF 16.7850
£ Yen 135.15
£ Index 91.8
ECU 1.63633 SDR 1.77055
£ ECU 1.44253 SDR 1.28258

GOLD:
London Fixing:
AM \$358.00 per \$357.95
close \$357.00-\$357.50 (\$205.60-205.10)
New York:
Comex \$358.15-\$359.65

PEAK PRICES:
RPI: 131.4 March (1987-199)
MONTHLY RENT:
Brent (Jun) 1... \$7.25 bid (\$19.30)
* Denotes latest trading price

Factory gate inflation reaches highest level since 1982



By ANATOLE KALETSKY
ECONOMICS EDITOR

HOPES of an early cut in interest rates suffered a blow yesterday with the announcement that Britain's wholesale inflation rose in April to its highest level since 1982. The producer prices index jumped by 1.2 per cent last month, lifting the annual inflation rate up to 6.4 per cent from 6.2 per cent in March. Treasury officials did their best to put a favourable gloss on the figures, which were considerably worse than market expectations. But Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the

Governor of the Bank of England, repeated his increasingly outspoken opposition to monetary easing.

A cut in interest rates had been widely expected this Friday, when the government is due to announce a sharp fall in the headline inflation rate as measured by the retail prices index. But Mr Leigh-Pemberton gave a warning last week that the PPI and other measures of underlying inflation were not yet convincingly on the way down.

He issued his warning again yesterday in thinly veiled terms, denouncing the "siren voices" who

call for interest rate cuts whenever growth slowed or a recession threatened. Monetary policy should concentrate on stabilising prices and not "attempt to deliver a target path for real output, even in the short run", the Governor said, referring to Britain's economic dilemma, at a Frankfurt banking conference.

Treasury officials, by contrast, stressed that yesterday's bad PPI figure was strongly distorted by unexpectedly high alcohol and tobacco duties in the Budget. These accounted for 0.7 percentage points of last month's PPI jump. Output

prices of manufacturing industries other than food, drink and tobacco increased by only 0.5 per cent last month. This was equivalent to an annual rate of 6.2 per cent. But government officials noted that the year on year rise in this measure of wholesale prices improved last month to 5.9 per cent from 6.1 per cent in March. Treasury economists added that there was no reason to revise the Budget forecast that PPI inflation would fall to 4.75 per cent by the end of this year.

The CBI, whose members have been forecasting sharply lower infla-

tion since Christmas, also issued a statement questioning the PPI figures. Surveys suggested that factory gate inflation was only about 4 per cent and falling, the CBI said.

□ American consumer prices increased by 0.2 per cent in April, in line with expectations, after falling by 0.1 per cent in March. April retail sales were slightly stronger than expected, falling by just 0.1 per cent, but March sales were revised steeply upwards, showing a rise of 0.4 per cent instead of the drop of 0.8 per cent as had been previously reported.

JOHN MANNING

'Investor' pays £240m

ICI baffled as raider buys 3% share stake

By MICHAEL CLARK AND GRAHAM SEARJEANT

AN EXTRAORDINARY stock market raid on the shares of ICI, Britain's chemical and pharmaceutical multinational, astonished both the company and the City and created confused speculation about the motive of the anonymous but high profile buyer.

ICI, which is valued at £8.3 billion, is treating its new shareholder as potentially hostile, although most City analysts believe the raid may have been intended to put pressure on the group to make a trade deal or restructure, rather than as a prelude to a takeover bid.

Smith New Court, the securities group, acting for a client is described as a non-

institutional client buying for investment purposes. Only, bought 17.5 million ICI shares, equivalent to 2.4 per cent of the equity, in the market yesterday morning at £11.67, against an opening market price of £11.

The International Stock Exchange Seaq ticker last night showed, however, that 20 million shares, near the 3 per cent disclosure level, changed hands. This stock was sold at the end of the day to the ultimate buyer at £11.944, an unusually wide trading margin of 2.3 per cent that would have yielded Smith New Court a £5 million profit. ICI shares were quoted at £11.57 overnight.

On a normal day, only about 1.5 million ICI shares are traded and the average margin on big purchases is

usually nearer 1 per cent. The purchase of such a holding in one day was therefore seen as an extremely clumsy and expensive method of acquiring an investment or even as a prelude to a bid.

ICI said it knew nothing of the identity of the buyer and therefore concluded that the move was not friendly. A buyer would normally tell ICI of its intentions in advance.

The group's biggest shareholder is Prudential, with 3.5 per cent, although combined American holdings are nearly 6 per cent. ICI is trying to identify the buyer and said it could use the Companies Act to force disclosure once the purchase was registered.

Speculation that the buying had come from either Hoechst or BASF, two of the three largest German chemical groups, was denied by both. Apart from the German groups, only Du Pont of America or multinational oil groups such as Exxon or Shell are thought big enough to make a hostile bid for ICI other than with the intention of breaking the group up.

Hanson, the cash-rich conglomerate, made no comment, as usual. Any attempt to break up ICI would almost certainly centre on its pharmaceutical interests, which accounted for 47 per cent of the group's trading profit and would earn a higher stock market rating than its chemical group. ICI could have a break-up value of up to £20 per share.

Stock market, page 25

Formula for leading role on world stage

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ICI is Britain's biggest manufacturer and one of the world's five largest chemical companies. It has 132,000 employees, working in 130 countries, with 220 manufacturing plants in 40 countries.

Many of its businesses are world leaders. ICI Paints is the world's largest paint company, while ICI Explosives is the largest manufacturer of commercial explosives.

Results in 1990, however, were poor enough for Sir Denis Henderson, ICI's chair-

man, to describe them as disappointing. ICI group sales last year were £12.9 billion, down 2 per cent on the record figures the group achieved in 1989. Pre-tax profits were £977 million, 36 per cent down.

ICI says it was one of the first to see early signs of the economic downturn. Sir Denis says it took early action to conserve cash and contain costs, allowing it to maintain its balance sheet - and its dividend.

Jaguar steers Ford to £247m deficit in UK

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD slumped to a pre-tax deficit of £247 million last year, its first loss for 20 years in Britain. The loss was the sharpest evidence yet of the dramatic reversal of fortunes suffered by Britain's biggest vehicle maker and the overall decline in the new car market in the United Kingdom.

Ford's deficit followed a record pre-tax surplus of £673 million in 1988 and £483 million in 1989.

The company was surrounded by difficulties during the year, from the cost of buying Jaguar to carrying pre-tax losses of £66 million for the luxury car maker.

A seven-week strike at Halewood, Merseyside, disrupted production, with the

loss of 39,500 cars and vans, while output from the Southampton Transit van plant fell 11.8 per cent because of similar disputes. Total production of cars and commercial vehicles also fell 11.8 per cent.

Ford suffered most in the high street showrooms. Registrations of new cars fell 16.6 per cent to 507,260, while the overall decline in the UK was 12.69 per cent. Market share slipped from 26.45 per cent to 25.25 per cent during the year.

Jaguar incurred a substantial loss, while Ford also had to pay interest charges of £235 million, which, together with goodwill costs, totalled £335 million. Ford is determined to retain Jaguar despite the figures, which have led to

speculation that a partner may be sought to help run the Coventry subsidiary.

Derek Barron, chairman and chief executive of Ford Motor Company, said Jaguar results were "in line with expectations and did not change the company's long-term view of the acquisition".

Ford turnover rose to £7.5 billion, but operating profit fell to £136 million (£499 million). Mr Barron said investment to the end of the century would be £2.5 billion.

On the positive side, exports increased to £2.08 billion (£1.67 billion), with Jaguar adding a further £649 million. The Dagenham plant in Essex enjoyed its best year for output since 1982.

Times, page 23

Pöhl poised to quit Bundesbank

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
IN FRANKFURT

KARL Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank and one of Germany's most influential political figures, is expected to announce his resignation tomorrow, after more than 11 years in a job widely regarded as that of the world's most powerful central banker.

The resignation of Herr Pöhl, a member of the German Social Democratic Party and a monetary hardliner in the Thatcher vein, comes after a year of growing dispute with the German government and amid uncertainty over the Bundesbank's independence.

Herr Pöhl is expected to leave this autumn. Speculation about his resignation has been building up over the past few days and was heightened after leaks, thought to originate from the Bonn government, that he will resign, apparently for personal reasons. Herr Pöhl

took office in January 1980 and his second eight-year term is due to expire at the end of 1995.

The Bundesbank again refused to deny the speculation, and issued a statement saying that Herr Pöhl, who was abroad on business until yesterday afternoon, "deplores the reports of his alleged intention of resigning that are now in circulation. He does not want to comment on them at the moment".

The Bundesbank added that Herr Pöhl will make a statement after tomorrow's bi-weekly meeting of the central council. A Bundesbank source, while refusing to comment directly, said the statement indicated that Herr Pöhl planned to inform the Bundesbank council of his intentions before making a public announcement. He would have to lodge his resignation with Richard von Weizsäcker, the president of Germany. Banking circles in Frankfurt interpreted

the Bundesbank's refusal to clarify the issue as a sure sign of Herr Pöhl's intention to resign.

Herr Pöhl has been reported to have been offered a highly paid position in commerce or banking, where he could easily quadruple his salary. Although the Bundesbank does not publish the salary of its president, since it forms part of a "private" contract with the government, the wage is believed to be about DM500,000 (£170,000). This represents the third largest salary in the public sector after that of the president and the chancellor.

It is thought possible that Herr Pöhl, an Anglophile, might launch a new career in America or possibly Britain since the top job in German banking, that of chief executive of Deutsche Bank, has only just changed hands. Hilmar Kopper was appointed after the assassination of Alfred Herrhausen.



Retiring chairman: Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, who steps down at Allied-Lyons, at London's Tower Hotel yesterday

Allied puts currency loss in the past

By MATTHEW BOND

SIR Derrick Holden-Brown, who retires as chairman of Allied-Lyons in two months, believes the company's disastrous involvement with foreign currency trading can now be put behind it.

"The loss was a matter of regret and concern, but it will not be repeated and it does not alter the fundamental strength of a group whose strategy is taking it in the right direction."

Sir Derrick was speaking after Allied had revealed that the £147 million it lost on currency trading had cut profits to a pre-tax £479 million, 15 per cent down on last year.

However, with the Allied board determined to show it is back to business as normal, the final dividend has been raised to 12.54p (11.3p), making 18.81p (16.95p).

The figures were accompanied by the news that Allied will sell Lyons-Maid, its ice cream business. Tony Hales, chief executive, said: "It has not been a profitable business for us for a number of years."

Despite speculation, Allied appears committed to its breweries, and is probably the furthest advanced in bringing its tied estate into line with the requirements of the 1989 monopolies commission report. Allied must dispose of more than 2,300 public houses. In the last two years, 660 have been sold and another 800 await buyers.

Last year, Allied increased its market shares in ales and lagers, largely due to a five-year deal to supply beers to Greenall Whitley, which closed its own breweries.

GA reduces loss to £75m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A 20 PER CENT increase in motor insurance claims in Britain contributed to a first quarter pre-tax loss of £75.1 million at General Accident, the Scottish composite insurer.

The deficit on the motor account was up to £32 million (£14 million) on premium income of £91.8 million. The three-month loss for the group as a whole was reduced from £81.5 million.

Fraudulent claims are thought to have increased as a result of the recession and premium rates on motor in-

surance have increased by a compound 25 per cent during the year to May.

Overall, the UK account made a first quarter loss of £92.8 million, up from the £80.2 million for last year, which included the first wave of claims following the disastrous storms in January 1990. Losses on household insurance fell from £26.9 million to £20.9 million, of which about half were caused by subsidence claims after last year's dry summer.

Building insurance premium rates were raised 10 per

cent in February, although sharply increased reinsurance costs are thought have wiped out much of the benefit.

World-wide underwriting losses of £167.3 million included £39.7 million in America and £10.3 million from continental Europe. NZI Bank, the New Zealand banking subsidiary that is being wound down, made a £0.2 million profit (£1.5 million loss). The firm remains on course for an improvement on last year's £121.3 million loss.

Comment, page 23

Maine-Tucker

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BT sale may boost government hopes for more share shops

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

FINANCIAL institutions that are keen to be involved in the sell-off of the government's remaining stake in British Telecom have made submissions to the Treasury on how they can help widen share ownership.

Banks and building societies have started discussions with the department before today's deadline for submissions on high street share shops.

The proposals were invited by the Chancellor in his Budget speech.

Norman Lamont said he wanted to encourage people to invest in shares more generally by the development of a retail market for shares in "high streets up and down the country".

To encourage banks, building societies and other institutions to become involved, Mr Lamont said he would consider using such a high street network for the sale of BT shares.

The main banks are concerned that the sale of BT shares through their branches should not cause long queues and that they should not be blamed for any scaling down

of the applications for shares.

Midland Bank, which already operates share shops in two Debenhams stores, and 20 of its branches, has stressed to the government that the main difficulty of selling BT shares through a high street network is the number of shares involved.

Steve Crockford, director of Midland Stockbrokers, said: "We have put a proposal forward which would enable anyone to buy shares in BT in as close a manner as possible to buying shares ordinarily."

"They would be able to go into a high street outlet and walk out with something as close as possible to a certificate."

He continued that BT was a big issue and that no one bank would suggest that it could handle it on its own. Midland envisages the new BT shares being on sale for a period at a discount.

It will have 40 share shops in place by the end of the summer.

National Westminster Bank, which opened its first investment shop last month, is anxious to avoid hundreds of thousands of people queuing

at its branches for BT shares.

NatWest already offers instant dealing through touchscreens in 278 of its 2,900 branches. These encourage long queues on the first days after shares are dispatched in privatisation issues.

Barclays was working on its submission yesterday. This will include the suggestion of a discount for a fixed period to reduce the need to queue to purchase shares.

The bank also wants to provide dealing services with other organisations, such as high street retailers.

Abbey National, which offers a sharedealing service in its own shares and recent privatisations, has told the government that the sale of BT would have to involve several institutions.

The Halifax Building Society entered into preliminary discussions with the Treasury but has not made a proposal. Lloyds Bank submitted a proposal yesterday.

The government wants the introduction of a new system of selling shares in less formal high street outlets also to cut the cost of dealing.



Vacant rooms: Peter Catesby (left), deputy chairman, and Paul Nicholson yesterday

Swallow spoils Vaux results

ECONOMIC recession and the Gulf war have been blamed for a 14 per cent fall in trading profit at Swallow Hotels, the hotel chain run by Vaux, the Sunderland brewer.

Swallow was the only one of Vaux's six divisions that reported lower trading profits in the 24 weeks to March 16. In the three months after Christmas, occupancy rates fell from 60 per cent to 51 per cent.

The slump in hotel profits and a trebling in the group's interest charge resulted in pre-

tax profits 7 per cent lower at £13.1 million. The interim dividend rose to 3.1p (2.98p), but Vaux shares eased 3p to 222p as Paul Nicholson, the chairman, sounded a caution over profits.

"Prospects for the rest of the year are very dependent on whether the hotel industry recovers."

With growing concerns over the future of regional breweries, it was significant that the biggest improvement came from the Vaux and Ward breweries, where trading prof-

its rose 31 per cent to £5.9 million.

Three months ago, Vaux sold its 19 per cent stake in Tyne Tees, the ITV contractor. The modest surplus to book value on the sale, plus a far larger profit made on a sale and leaseback deal of the Swallow Hotel, Waltham Abbey, are included in a £7.1 million extraordinary profit.

The sale of the Tyne Tees stake resulted in associate profits dropping from £1.5 million to £188,000.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Fitzwilton knocked by heavier interest

FITZWILTON, the Irish holding company headed by Tony O'Reilly, reports a 4 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £11.7 million (£10.5 million) for last year. Operating profits rose 20 per cent to £13.2 million while turnover jumped 64 per cent to £140 million. Pre-tax profits were hit by rising interest charges that are not specified. A final dividend of 12p makes an unchanged 15.5p for the year.

Earnings per share are down from 11.2p to 10.7p as a result of the fundraising at the time of the investment in Waterford Wedgwood in March last year. The average number of shares in issue has increased by more than 50 per cent since 1989. Waterford Wedgwood's trading results have not been incorporated. Net bank debt was £20 million, giving gearing of 32 per cent. Fitzwilton's activities cover cash and carry, motor distribution, light manufacturing and luxury branded goods.

Sussex oil field starts

THE energy department has approved the first phase of development of the Singleton offshore oilfield in West Sussex, allowing immediate production from the first two wells completed in 1989 and last year. The project partners are Kelt UK, the operator, Monument Petroleum, Terebo Petroleum and Ultramar Exploration. The completed oilfield development will comprise six wells and is expected to produce an average of 1,000 barrels per day.

Income falls at Ranger

RANGER OIL, the Canadian group with interests in the North Sea and listed in London, saw net income fall from US\$7.7 million to \$4.7 million in the first quarter of this year. Earnings fell from 9 cents to 4 cents a share. Ranger wrote off \$2.2 million in costs incurred on the Anglia Energy project after the decision to cancel plans for a gas-fired power station at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, in March. Ranger has a 35.6 per cent interest in the Anglia offshore gas field.

Profits rise at Leeds

LEEDS Group, the Yorkshire textiles dyeing and leasing company, has reported slightly higher interim pre-tax profits of £1.87 million, against £1.80 million, for the six months to the end of March.

Turnover at the company was down by 10 per cent to £13.8 million, largely as a result of lower wool prices after the Australian Wool Commission's abolition of the floor price scheme. Stock values were written down by £100,000 for the second time in the last 12 months. The interim dividend is maintained at 3p. The company said that the outlook for the rest of the year "remains uncertain." An improvement in demand at home or in export markets is required "before meaningful profit growth can be resumed," the company added.

BP moves in Sweden

BRITISH Petroleum is selling parts of Svenska BP, its Swedish refining and marketing subsidiary, to OK Petroleum, a Swedish oil company, on undisclosed terms. OKP will buy the remaining 78 per cent of BP's Gothenburg refinery that it does not own, as well as BP's domestic heating oil, fuel oil and liquefied petroleum gas business. OKP's share of a joint venture for storage and distribution will also rise from 50 to 80 per cent.

Sara Lee sells sauces unit

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, is to acquire the French cold sauces activities of Sara Lee/DE for an undisclosed sum. Product ranges include mayonnaises, vinaigrettes and mustards marketed under the Benedicts and Mayonnaise brands. The business has a turnover of £300 million, operating from two factories in northern France. The acquisition is to be made through Astra-Calve, Unilever's French subsidiary.

Hoverspeed slumps

HOVERSPED, the cross-Channel hovercraft service, lost about \$6 million in the first quarter of this year, making up the bulk of the \$6.5 million net losses of Sea Containers, its parent company.

The group said that the results are not comparable with those of last year, when Sea Containers had a much larger marine container fleet. The Hoverspeed figures were similar to those recorded for the first quarter of last year. Hoverspeed has had to cope with the planned introduction of the catamaran ferry Seacat operation which will eventually replace the hovercraft, but which has been dogged with problems to date. James Sherwood, president of Sea Containers, said the financial results contained no surprises and that prospects were "excellent".

Banham attacks Brussels' social action programme

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS ought now to expose the European Commission's social action programme as a "dangerous sham", John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry said last night.

In one of the sharpest attacks yet by a British business leader on the range of European proposals on employment law and workers' rights, Mr Banham criticised the social action plan - the enactment of the European Commission's social charter aimed at rectifying for employees the balance of the move to a single market in 1992 - as a "charade".

Speaking in London to members of the French Chamber of Commerce in Britain, he said the programme was "the refuge of politicians willing to mortgage the competitive future to buy votes today; to exert influence out of all proportion to the support they enjoy among Europe's workers; and an invitation to

employers to abdicate their responsibilities."

Mr Banham's remarks are a little out of step with the softer line on the social programme beginning to emerge from the government. But he insisted that employers did not believe in collective bargaining at a European level, nor in agreements being negotiated via "some horse-trading process in Brussels".

Competition, not regulation, created resources and opportunities, he said. That was the lesson to be learned from the demise of the command economies of eastern Europe. Mr Banham said: "It would be ironic indeed if, just as the failures of central planning were becoming more apparent in one part of Europe, we sought to move in the other direction."

The CBI council will next week consider the latest European directive on consultation with employees, as well as its response to the Labour party's heavily European-influenced industrial policy proposals.

Refuge closes operation

THE Refuge Group, the insurer, has closed Refuge (Isle of Man), its offshore fund management operation, blaming depressed market conditions and adverse publicity about failed offshore companies (Sara McConnell writes).

John Cudworth, chief executive of Refuge, said the operation would have needed

to double its £15 million funds under management to survive. Last year, it made a £454,000 loss. The 11 open-ended investment companies operating under the offshore umbrellas had attracted only "several hundred" investors, Mr Cudworth said.

The investments will be realised and the proceeds distributed soon.

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Marks shrugs off the recession

COMMENT

Number one is trying pretty hard. British retail profits and margins, the crux for Marks and Spencer, were virtually maintained before the £16 million redundancy charge. That was achieved despite prices rising an average of only 5 per cent and the volume of sales falling 1.2 per cent or 2.8 per cent if extra selling space is excluded.

The second half, which included a good Christmas, was particularly resilient considering that M&S was as surprised at the speed of the downturn as any other.

The rest of the figures virtually cancelled each other out. The group earned more interest than it paid this time, despite £300 million of debt, thanks to the debt being in dollars and the cash in sterling.

The continental operations performed well, but Brooks Brothers in America saw profits halve to an abysmal \$11 million on \$300 million sales and losses in Canada were only slightly down.

In Britain, the year has got off to a bad start with three poor months out of the first four which

obliged M&S to bite the VAT bullet in the hope of boosting sales and minimising discounts on unsold stock in the late summer.

Richard Greenbury, the chairman, has not written the first half off yet, but the success or failure of the policy will only emerge later on. The group rests its tactics on offering value to consumers whose spending confidence will not recover quickly.

If M&S is to shine rather than merely show skilful resilience, it will have to make its overseas interests work harder. After 18 years, Canada is a lost cause and Mr Greenbury made clear he intends to deal with it somehow, though contractual deals on space do not make that easy.

On the Continent, more positively, the M&S formula is working well and space will be increased by 40 per cent this year, two-fifths of total new space.

Brooks Brothers, meanwhile, is proving a long and frustrating

job. Mr Greenbury now admits that returns are unlikely to justify the \$750 million it cost.

M&S shares are highly rated. At 257p they yield 3.5 per cent in dividend and sell at 17 times earnings before exceptional charges, which might fall to 16 times 1991-92 earnings.

The premium is well justified by past performance and trading strength, but Mr Greenbury knows he cannot afford to fall from grace.

Pöhl position

Financial traders may be driven by emotion and primitive herd instinct, but when it comes to assessing individuals, they are a remarkably unemotional lot. Karl-Otto Pöhl was second only to Paul

Volcker as the dominant financial figure of the last decade.

But, as the rumours of Herr Pöhl's impending resignation hardened yesterday into firm predictions, the markets' initial disbelief turned not into panic but into indifference or even apparent relief. In the long run this sanguine assessment will probably be justified. The Bundesbank's devotion to anti-inflationary stability, to say nothing of its technical competence, is a quality pervading the whole institution. It does not depend on the presence or absence of one man.

In the immediate future, however, Herr Pöhl's resignation could raise other issues. Two questions of vital policy significance may remain unanswered, even after Herr Pöhl makes his formal announcement on

Thursday. Is his departure a symptom of a policy dispute between the Bundesbank and the Kohl government? And will his successor be more of a more amenable political appointee?

If, as is likely, Herr Pöhl says on Thursday that he will remain at the Bundesbank until December, the first worry will at least partially be laid to rest.

By the end of the year, both of Herr Pöhl's most controversial long-term missions will have been completed. The outlines of European monetary union will have been settled and the financial arrangements for German unity will be in place.

The second question may be harder to settle.

Hans Tietmeyer, the likely successor is a respected official, but also a figure closely associated with Chancellor Kohl.

The markets would be more impressed if Helmut Schlesinger, the headline inflation fighter who has been the Bundesbank's

deputy president throughout the Eighties were appointed, at least until the end of Herr Pöhl's unexpired term.

Accept Coats

Tootal has fought an enterprising battle against the unwanted takeover offer from Coats Viyella.

But with almost 30 per cent of its shares in Coats' hands when the bid was launched it looked unlikely that Tootal would preserve its independence at the end of the fight.

Shareholders must take account of the harsh reality that the two companies look better able to thrive if their strengths are pooled.

This will lead to stronger market positions in a number of product areas and allow important cost savings to be made.

Tootal holders should accept the share offer. But they could scarcely be blamed for selling in the market.

The cash proceeds can almost certainly be deployed to better effect elsewhere in the market.

Blind date arrives for TV groups

SHAREHOLDERS in some of the more vulnerable ITV companies, such as TVS Entertainment, TV-am and Thames, must be feeling particularly nervous this morning as their companies, and those wishing to displace them, deliver their fateful blind bids for the new Channel 3 licence to the Independent Television Commission.

After weeks of around-the-clock meetings, feverish calculations and recalculations and obsessive use of paper shredders and debugging devices, all that remains certain is that the great majority of incumbents will get past the "quality threshold", given the commission's assurance that quality will be judged relative to existing output.

The second round, involving the opening of the sealed bids that will net the Treasury a total of between £3 billion and £4 billion, in yearly instalments, for the ten-year licences, is causing the uncertainty among shareholders.

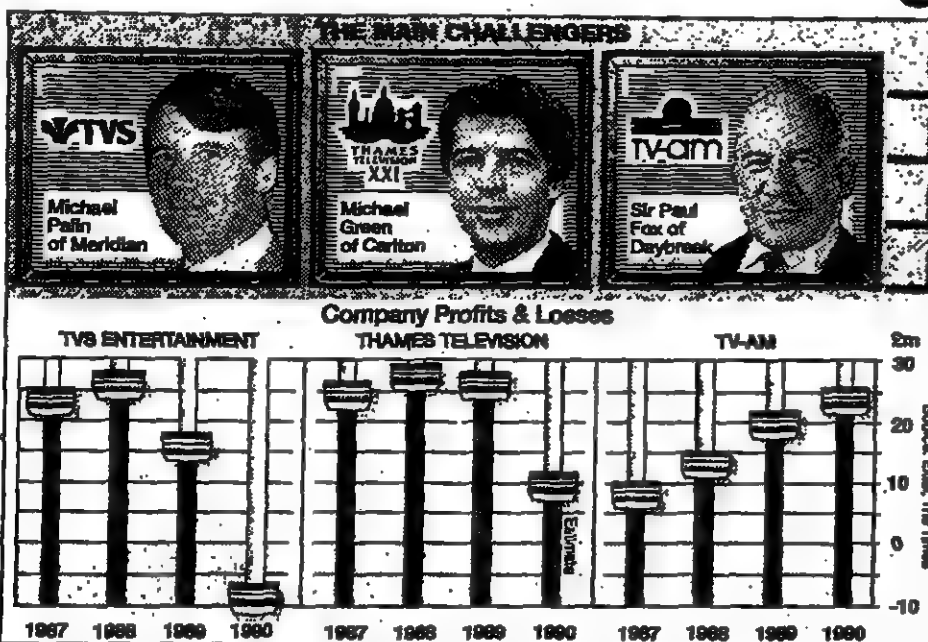
Existing ITV companies, with everything to lose except assets and, in some cases, programme libraries, face a catch-22: to ensure victory, they must bid higher than they think their rivals will bid, yet that victory will be a hollow one if they overbid, putting at risk ten years of profits.

Not knowing for certain who their rivals are until the close of the International Stock Exchange today, the incumbents may also have bid too high against a rumoured bidder that fails to materialise, or too low against a surprise contender.

How would Granada Television's David Plowright, for example, explain to Granada Group shareholders that they have to pay £20 million a year to the Treasury when, having discovered no challenger, they could have got away with just £2,000?

Broadcasting analysts believe there is a real danger that valuable incumbents in the hotly contested regions of southern England will overbid, knowing they face challenges from consortiums set up as Channel 4-style publisher/contractors, which have much lower overheads and therefore more cash available with which to bid.

"It's easier to start out as a thin man than as a fat man trying to get thin," says Simon



Albury, director of strategy at Meridian Broadcasting, the MAI-backed consortium relying on independent producers such as Selco-TV and Rowan Atkinson's Tiger Television to out-TVS Television from the South and Southeast franchise. "We have everything to win; an incumbent has everything to lose."

Some pundits believe consortia relying on independent producers for most of their output, running only regional news and advertising sales

have bids for the licence held by Thames, which has a 15.3 per cent share of ITV advertising revenue and had a turnover of £247 million last year could go as high as £50 million, including the 11 per cent of advertising revenue (£22 million now) that must be paid to the Treasury.

TVS, which will today unveil a plan to raise new equity to pay for and run a new Channel 3 licence after reporting an £8.3 million loss and no dividend on Monday, would

per cent of all television output on the BBC, ITV and Channel 4 be independently produced.

If Granada were to lose its franchise after 30 years, it says it would sell Coronation Street and other programmes such as *World in Action* to BSkyB, in which it holds a 12 per cent stake. If the BBC or the new Channel 3 central scheduler bid higher, the programmes would go to them.

LWT, likely to face a bid from the consortium formed by PolyGram, Working Title, Mentorn Films and Palace Pictures, last month renamed its London headquarters the London Television Centre in the hope that the capital's large number of independents will use its studios.

Thames, meanwhile, has two options on Astra satellite channels, which would cost it £3.5 million a year to rent.

There may be life after death, but it will not be easy, particularly for the small and medium-sized companies that rarely, if ever, contribute to the £450 million-a-year ITV network.

Jane Anson, an analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said: "Without ad revenue and a programme library, they are worth little more than the break-up value of their assets." HTV, Ulster, TSW, Tyne Tees and Anglia are all facing strong challenges.

TV-am, which holds the lucrative but vulnerable national morning licence, will

have a tough time coming up with alternative businesses should it lose out.

Bruce Gynell, the chief executive, believes TV-am could restructure itself as a news provider to compete with ITN once its monopoly ends in 1995.

TV-am faces two key challenges: Daybreak TV, a group headed by Sir Paul Fox that comprises ITN, the Daily Telegraph, Carlton, MAI, NBC and Taylor Woodrow, and Sunrise TV, comprising LWT, Scottish TV, Walt Disney and the Guardian.

It may be of some comfort to ITV shareholders that George Russell, chairman of the television commission, said he "wouldn't be embarrassed" if none of the companies changed hands. However, it is thought that at least four will lose out on what Lord Thomson of Monifieth, the former chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, once called "a licence to print money", and David Frost now jokes will be "a licence to borrow money".

MELINDA WITTSTOCK
Media Correspondent

Franchise battles, page 11
Letters, page 15

Hanson keeps record

AN INCREASE of 3 per cent in taxable profits at the half-year stage is hardly the sort of trail-blazing performance to which Hanson shareholders are accustomed.

Without contributions from Peabody and Cavenham, which accounted for the modest increase, Hanson's 27 years of uninterrupted profits' growth would end.

Instead, Hanson has the resources to ensure that the record is not denied. The market is now focusing on the company's management skills instead of its ability to do deals and has decided that during a recession there is little to distinguish it from other conglomerates.

After all, a cash mountain of £7.5 billion seems to have done little to protect Hanson from the worst effects of the downturn in consumer spending and industrial investment.

More alarming was a veiled warning that Hanson is not about to buy its way out of the recession. Lord White's assertion that American share prices do not reflect poor earnings prospects, could well be exported to Britain. Hanson delights from wrong-footing

the market but shareholders would be wise not to anticipate a major deal.

Taxable profits rose to £588 million (£570 million) in the six months to end March and earnings from 8.9p a share to 9.4p. The interim dividend edged up from 3p to 3.15p, reflecting a sluggish performance within most sectors on both sides of the Atlantic.

Assuming profits of £1.31 billion this year, earnings will rise from 19.9p a share to 20.8p putting the shares, at 221.5p on a prospective multiple of 10.6. They are fully valued.

Allied-Lyons

TO MAKE one £150 million foreign currency trading loss might be regarded as a misfortune, but to make two is virtually inconceivable and for that reason Allied-Lyons's management, both new and old, have to be believed when they say the foreign currency debacle is now behind them.

An 11 per cent increase in the final dividend to 12.54p (11.3p), making a total of 18.81p (16.95p), is clearly meant to indicate that busi-

ness is back to normal.

After all, but for the currency trading losses of £147 million that resulted in pre-tax profits falling 15 per cent to £479 million, profits would actually have grown 10.8 per cent to £626 million in the year to March 2. It is that figure that Allied would like its followers to concentrate on.

A positive cashflow has cut gearing on its conservative balance sheet from 78 to 70 per cent.

Dunkin' Donuts, acquired for £206 million, seems to be providing some real excitement in the food division (soon to be minus Lyons Maid) while James Burroughs, the Whitbread spirits' business bought for £545 million, is bedding down increasingly well as Allied concentrates on premium spirit brands.

With the Greenall Whitley supply agreement underpinning the breweries division, Allied looks a buy on fundamentals, let alone bid hopes. As profits are likely to rise towards £700 million this year, the shares, at 552p, are on a rewarding price/earnings multiple of under 12.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Dynamic duo hit town

TERRY Lenzner, the American lawyer who shot to fame during the Watergate affair, is back in town. And with him is Terry Franklin, a former journalist who, from June, will run the European operations of Investigative Group Inc, a Washington firm. "There is some overlap with Kroll Associates but we have a very different mix of people," says Lenzner, chairman of IGI, who helped trigger President Nixon's downfall. IGI, which opened a London office four years ago, predicts more American firms will be bidding for European companies, and hopes to offer its vetting services. "Our business here has more than doubled in the last 18 months," says Franklin, aged 37, who takes up her post on June 15.

Absent broker
HOW to impress the client... Smiths Industries, the chemicals and pharmaceuticals

group, took a team of analysts to Hythe, Kent, yesterday to visit one of its medical plants. The coach was late leaving, after one of the guests, Paul Compton of UBS Phillips & Drew, failed to turn up. Compton, who lists "travelling" among his interests, had to pull out at the last minute because of a shortage of staff in the office. All of which is fine - apart from the fact that



"Will we accept foreign currency?"

UBS is broker to Smiths Industries. An analyst from Kleinwort Benson thanked the company in his absence.

Screen secrets

CITY dealing screens have quite a story to tell... about the people who use them. Doug Edgar, managing director of VDU Tech Ltd, London Central, which cleans computers for banks and financial houses among others, is privy to all sorts of secrets. "It is amazing what people will leave under their keyboards," says Edgar, who claims to have found "burly intimate objects" hastily tucked out of sight. He was called to the Savoy Hotel recently after someone spilled orange juice into a keyboard. "I hope it's pure orange juice," he teased. "This is the Savoy, you know," came the frosty reply.

Return to sender
OVERWHELMING support from Scottish businessmen for the Conservative party, as expressed in the May edition

of *Insider*, an independent magazine for industrialists north of the border, is somewhat tempered by the magazine's own experience in obtaining photographs of political leaders. Conservative central office sent a head and shoulders shot of John Major with a slip attached requesting: "Please return as soon as possible."

Wedding banns

TALES of love in the Square Mile are flying thick and fast. The latest hero is Colin Taylor, a director of Smith New Court, who marries Karen Smith - no relation to the Smith of the title - in a ceremony in Essex on May 25. Karen, who is secretary to Mike Unsworth, head of research at the firm, is then due to jet off to a "secret and exotic" destination with her beau, who shyly refuses to reveal any details. "Everybody is delighted and she is simply gorgeous," says the happy groom-to-be, who has been with the firm since 1974.

JON ASHWORTH

Mowat Group seeks £10m

By MARTIN BARROW

MOWAT Group, the highly geared leisure and property firm, has announced a one-for-one rights issue raising £10 million, of which £3 million will be repaid to banks that refinanced debts last December. The balance will be used to further reduce borrowings and upgrade its holiday parks.

After the rights issue, borrowings are expected to fall from 135 per cent of shareholders' funds, a seasonal peak, to 85 per cent. Net debt of £25 million reflects the acquisition of two holiday parks for the 1990 season and the takeover

of Penman Group for £4.75 million in cash and shares last year. Brian Dunlop, chairman, is not subscribing for his full entitlement and his shareholding will be diluted from 25 per cent to about 15 per cent.

The new shares are being offered at 11p each, compared with 12p for existing shares. The rights issue has been underwritten by Société Générale Straus Turnbull.

Mowat also disclosed a sharp fall in interim pre-tax profits to £30,000 (£854,000) to end December and passed

payment of an interim dividend (0.5p). There is no forecast for the full year. Last year, the company did not pay a final dividend. Operating profits rose to £4.53 million (£3.21 million) on turnover of £20.04 million (£14.8 million).

Interest charges rose from £2.35 million to almost £4.5 million. An extraordinary charge of £105,000 relating to the closure of one of the holiday operations left a deficit attributable to shareholders of £85,000. Earnings were 0.02p (0.64p) a share.



General Accident

THREE MONTHS' RESULTS

The results of the General Accident Group for the three months ended 31st March 1991 estimated and unaudited, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1990, which are restated at 31st December 1990 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1990.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not usually provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	3 Months to 31.3.91 Estimated £ millions	3 Months to 31.3.90 Estimated £ millions	1990 Year Actual £ millions
Premium Income			
General Business	819.1	716.2	3,045.8
Long Term Business	104.0	102.4	413.5
	923.1	818.6	3,459.3
Investment Income			
NIZ Bank Result	110.1	92.5	429.9
Estate Agency Result	0.2	(1.5)	(6.3)
Underwriting - General Business Result	(167.3)	(153.9)	(461.7)
Long Term Business Profits	8.0	6.8	25.2
	(54.2)	(61.6)	(36.2)
Less Interest on Loans	20.9	19.9	85.1
Loss before Taxation	(75.1)	(81.5)	(121.3)
Taxation - U.K. and Overseas	(14.6)	(18.3)	(25.7)
Loss after Taxation	(60.5)	(63.2)	(95.6)
Minority Interest	(0.6)	(0.8)	(2.4)
Net loss attributable to Shareholders	(59.9)	(62.4)	(93.2)
Earnings per Share	(13.8p)	(14.6p)	(21.7p)
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results			
U.S.A.	\$1.74	\$1.93	\$1.93
Canada	\$2.01	\$2.24	\$2.24

Notes

- (1) Under a Scheme of Arrangement sanctioned by the Court of Session under Section 425 of The Companies Act 1985 and effective on 5th July, 1990 the shareholders of General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc received for each share then held, two new shares of 25p each fully paid in General Accident plc. Earnings per share for the three months to 31st March 1990 have been restated.
- (2) Investment income includes in 1991 £2.9m representing amortisation of US deep discount bonds (1990 £2.7m which was not credited to earnings).
- (3) The NIZ Bank result includes gains and losses both realised and unrealised on investments held for trading purposes.

Analysis by Territory of General Business Premium Income and Underwriting Result

	3 months to 31.3.91 Premium Income £m	3 months to 31.3.90 Premium Income £m	3 months to 31.3.90 Underwriting Result £m
U.K.	286.3	(92.8)	270.2
U.S.A.	254.4	(39.7)	(25.2)
Europe other than U.K.	54.7	(10.3)	(15.2)
Canada	90.8	(4.8)	(4.0)
Pacific	77.4	(11.2)	(12.0)
Other Overseas	26.4	(3.5)	(2.7)
London Market Business incl. Internal Reinsurance	29.1	(5.0)	(14.6)
	819.1	(167.3)	716.2

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 14.4% and 19.0% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 8.0% and 8.1% respectively.

In the United Kingdom, net written premiums were £286.3m (1990 £270.2m). There was an underwriting loss of £92.8m (1990 £80.2m loss net of internal reinsurance) after a provision of £3m in respect of the VAT changes introduced in the 1991 Budget. The Homeowners' and Commercial Property accounts reported losses of £20.9m and £21.7m respectively, which compared with losses of £26.9m and £28.0m in 1990, when both accounts were affected by severe weather losses. The Motor account, continuing to reflect the escalation in the frequency and average cost of claims seen in the later months of 1990, produced a loss of £32.0m (1990 £14.0m loss).

In the United States, net written premiums were \$442.8m (1990 \$379.2m) and the operating ratio was 115.68% as compared with 112.67% for the same period last year, due to deterioration in personal lines business. On the United Kingdom basis, the underwriting loss was £39.7m (1990 £25.2m loss).

Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £34.8m (1990 £48.5m loss). In the same period last year European and Internal Reinsurance results were adversely affected by weather losses. In Canada there was a continuation of the excellent 1990 results. Underwriting losses in the Pacific were down following a much better result from New Zealand.

New annual premiums for life business in the United Kingdom for the three months were £11.6m (1990 £13.6m) while single premiums have increased by £11.6m to £21.5m (1990 £9.9m).

General Accident plc

World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.

High wage costs force rethink on parts production

Daimler-Benz may move plants outside Germany

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

DAIMLER-BENZ, the largest industrial company in Germany, is threatening to move some production units outside the country because of rising wage costs and the recent 7 per cent wage settlement in the metal sector.

At the company's annual press conference, Edzard Reuter, Daimler's chief executive, said: "Germany as a location is causing us great concern. Because of rapid technological developments, foreign locations can now compete on quality at lower wage costs."

He said: "One must work to a sufficient extent in the regions in whose currencies the products are factored. We are concerned that perhaps not everyone responsible for the cost of labour in the federal republic is clearly aware of the simple axiom."

Herr Reuter refused to give details of the plan, which he said still needs to be discussed with the unions and the workers' representatives. But senior sources within Mercedes-Benz, Daimler's car and truck making subsidiary, say that the label "Made in Germany" constituted the car's most important selling advantage abroad and it was more likely that component parts production units, rather than the final car assembly, would move.

Herr Reuter said: "By 1995 we plan on saving roughly four billion marks annually." He said the programme did not exclude redundancies. For Germany's largest, and one of its most successful, companies to consider such tough action is indicative of some of the testing times ahead for the country's corporate sector.

Last year, the company succeeded in increasing cashflow - in Daimler's case the most meaningful indicator of profit-



Cost sensitive: Edzard Reuter, the chief executive of Daimler-Benz, yesterday

ability due to the rather conservative accounting standards - by 12 per cent to DM6.7 billion, with sales up 5 per cent to DM85.5 billion, two-thirds of which are accounted for by Mercedes-Benz. Consolidated net income rose from DM1.7 billion to DM1.8 billion. The dividend remained at DM12 per share.

The company is the greatest recipient of government subsidies, which last year amounted to about DM4 billion.

During the first quarter of this year, sales rose by 4 per cent, while net income, at DM420 million, was in line

with last year. However, the company suffered a 25 per cent fall in American sales after the introduction this year of a 10 per cent tax on luxury cars above \$30,000, which Herr Reuter criticised as discriminatory as few American cars fell into this price bracket.

AEG, Daimler's electronics subsidiary, which accounts for 15 per cent of sales, made a net loss of DM200 million.

Deutsche Aerospace, Daimler's answer to British Aerospace, had sales of DM12.5 billion but made a paper loss of DM135 million, although this is due largely to strong reserve building. About 40 per

cent of Daimler's balance sheet total of more than DM29 billion is represented by reserves. This presents the main reason why the company has difficulties in having its shares listed in New York.

Under American rules, Daimler would then have to file its accounts in compliance with American accounting standards that specify a stricter treatment of reserves. As a result Daimler's American accounts would show vastly higher profits than its German accounts.

Daimler, which had its shares listed in London last year, plans listings in Paris, Milan, Madrid and Sydney.

Redwood calls for less local red tape

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LOCAL authorities need to match the deregulation of business affairs that has been achieved by central government, John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister, said yesterday.

Mr Redwood's statement marks an ambition by the government to see local councils emulate the degree to which central government under the Conservatives has been lifting what government ministers see as the burdens on businesses from too much local and central government red tape.

Speaking at a seminar in London, Mr Redwood said there were simply too many rules affecting businesses, and too many changes in how those rules were enforced, too many separate authorities and inspectors who needed to be satisfied.

Central government had cut out a great deal of unnecessary licensing, form-filling and regulation.

But he said: "Local government needs to remember that most businesses exist to serve the local customer and contribute to the local economy."

"They are a source of jobs, service and pride, not villains in need of reprimand."

He called on local authorities to implement a business charter, which would include assurances that regulation would be reduced, ensure that enforcement action would concentrate on the bad minority and not the compliant majority, and that regulatory standards should be more consistently applied.

Mr Redwood said: "I want to see a local blitz on overburdensome and bad regulation, to complement the work of deregulation in government."

Power cost to reflect use

By ROSS TYMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE £1.5 billion a year charges levied by the National Grid Company for power transmission will be reformed to make them reflect the cost of the service used by each customer, Professor Stephen Littlechild, director general of electricity supply and the power industry's watchdog, said.

Professor Littlechild said the grid charges must be made to reflect power losses during transmission, to better fulfil the grid company's statutory duty to facilitate competition, and to enable it to look ahead.

Electricity supply companies and others are unhappy that the charges provide insufficient incentive for companies to build power stations in areas, notably the South-

east, where local generation capacity is inadequate to meet demand.

However, Professor Littlechild said the complexity of the issues had delayed implementation of a more market-oriented approach.

The director general recently undertook a two-week trip to America to study approaches to transmission charges there.

"The principles of such charges are not yet well developed," he said. "There is a lot at stake. It is important to get it right."

Professor Littlechild plans to hold a further six months of discussions with National Grid Company and other interested parties before drawing up a draft pricing structure for implementation in 1993.

However, he is already seeking a reform of the power "pool", or spot market arrangements, to make it easier for companies to build their own combined heat and power (CHP) plants.

The present rules oblige companies to offer all of their electricity output to the pool, and then to buy from the pool the amount of power they require.

Professor Littlechild said the rules should be modified to enable companies to pay lower pool charges, and to sell only their surplus output.

His approach would facilitate the development of CHP plants, which are attracting growing interest among manufacturing companies.

Devenish bid is extended

BODDINGTON had received acceptances for only 0.32 per cent of JA Devenish by the first closing date of its £120 million hostile bid. The offer has been extended until May 28.

Acceptances in respect of a further 3.3 per cent from shareholders who have undertaken to accept the cash offer of 210p a share, subject to certain conditions, have not yet been received.

Devenish's shares slipped by 1p to 242p yesterday, while Boddington's fell by 3p to 152p.

A Devenish spokesman said the "negligible" level of acceptance "underlines the inadequacy of the Boddington bid".

Adsteam help

Bankers to the stricken Adsteam Steamship Company (Adsteam) have thrown it a financial lifeline by agreeing to extend the repayment date for its debts to December 31.

Similar agreements were also signed by all the banks with its associates, Tooth and Company and David Jones.

Shares in all three, which have debts estimated at Aus\$6 billion (£2.71 billion), have been suspended since May 2 after the news that a planned restructuring would not go ahead.

Royal sells

Royal Insurance has sold its education services division to VNG Nationwide, a privately-owned computer services company, for an undisclosed sum.

The division was formed in 1984 to provide internal information technology training. It has annual revenues of about £300,000.

COMPANY BRIEFS

APOLLO METALS (Int)
Pre-tax: £569,000
EPS: 4.8p (6.1p)
Div: 1.15p (1p)

ALEXANDERS HOLDINGS
Pre-tax: £207,000
EPS: 0.361p (1.284p)
Div: Nil (nil)

HARTLEPOOL WATER
Pre-tax: £980,000
EPS: 85p (n/a)
Div: 23p, mkg 43p

HUNTINGDON INT. (Int)
Pre-tax: £7.3m (26.83m)
EPS: 6.1p (6.1p)
Div: 0.675p (0.6p)

MINING & ALLIED (Int)
Pre-tax: £161,000
EPS: 0.35p (0.14p)
Div: Nil (nil)

THE LIMITED INC. (IC)
Pre-tax: \$94m (\$102m)
EPS: \$0.14 (\$0.17)
Div: Nil (nil)

Pre-tax profit last time was £1.18 million. Company has set demanding targets for turnover and profitability for next year.

Interim results. Pre-tax profits last year were £277,000. "Except for poor vehicle sales" accounted for the profits fall.

Final results. Pre-tax profits last year were £160,000. Board intends to pursue progressive dividend policy.

Company remains only cautiously optimistic about prospects. Construction industry will be depressed for "extended period".

Pre-tax profits last year were £167,000. Board is "not optimistic" about any improvement in UK manufacturing this year.

Board reports that profits in first quarter fell because of repositioning of Limited Stores division.

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Why the Germans give us top marks

Britain's low labour costs and improved productivity, which in some cases exceeds that of German workers, are attracting investment, Wolfgang Münchau writes, but our training and infrastructure let us down

Increases in direct investments across Europe are often explained as a preparation for Europe's single market of 1993. However, in the case of the huge surge in direct German investment in Britain the single market has played little, if any, part.

Ask your average German businessman about what makes him invest in Britain and he will probably cite the strength of Britain's economy, which he would cynically define as its ability to suck in German imports. The Europe of 1993 and thereafter, though an ideal subject for after-dinner speeches and seminars, has never been the stuff that makes billions of Deutschmarks change their habitat.

A closer analysis of the trends in German investment in Europe shows that investment is closely connected with exports and not so much with future expectations about the effects of harmonisation. If exports rise, so do investments, and vice versa. They both rose strongly during the boom years in the late Eighties and have fallen with recession.

Britain has only fairly recently been discovered by German businessmen, whose prejudices about unsound industrial relations and an economy in terminal decline held up even when they were no longer justified. Once these prejudices began to be overturned, the Germans began to show an interest in Britain.

Britain is now Germany's second largest outlet for direct investment, ahead of France, its largest trading partner, a discrepancy that can be explained by a need to compensate for years of neglect.

Britain's belated membership of the European Community in 1973 was one factor, but more important was the country's economic prosperity. The Lawson credit boom might have turned out to be a curse for Britons, but not for the large number of German companies. These companies were ultimately the beneficiaries of Britain's rising trade deficits, particularly in the capital goods sector, where Germany's *Mittelstand*, or medium-sized

companies, have their traditional industrial strength.

Another factor was that the size of Britain's growing trade deficit in the late Eighties was primarily a consequence of rising imports of investment goods, machinery and tools.

Since the war, Germans have invested more than DM21 billion (£7 billion at today's prices) in Britain, most of which, DM18 billion, has come in since 1980, and most of that during the past three or four years. In first half of last year investments shot up even further, to DM4.1 billion (£1.4 billion).

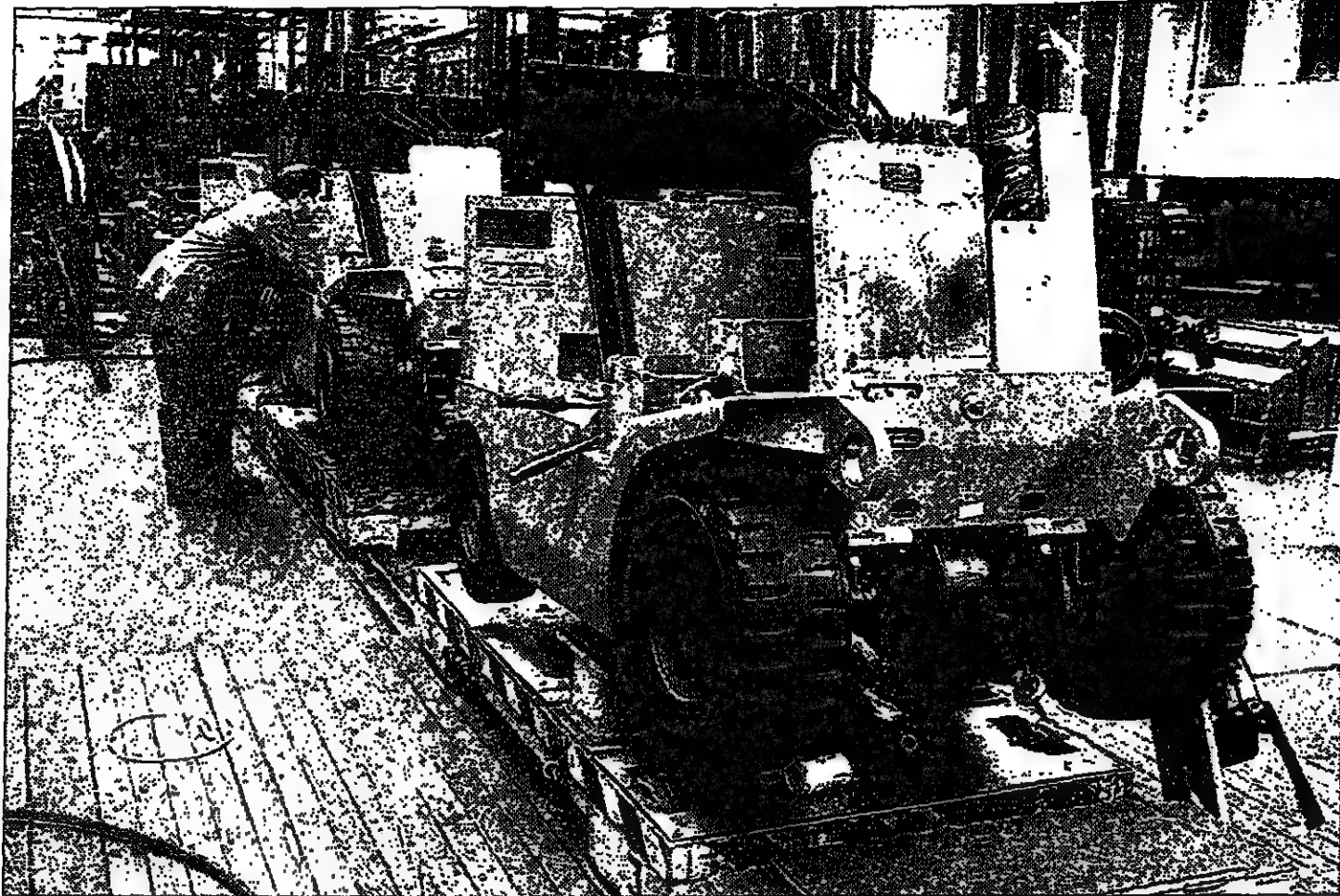
However, it may be misleading to place too much emphasis on the data of any single year or six-month period because of the statistical distortions caused by some large deals. In 1989, Plessey, the British electronics company, was bought by Siemens and GEC. In 1990, Deutsche Bank bought Morgan Grenfell, the London merchant bank, and this year, Otto-Versand, the Hamburg-based mail order group, has acquired Gratian, the mail order subsidiary of Next.

The openness of London's financial markets allows foreign companies to choose acquisitions as an alternative to greenfield operations, a choice that provides an additional boost to inward investment. Although the value of certain deals presents a statistical freak, the trend is for more acquisitions.

At present, the overall trend of investments is negative because of the British recession, which has also brought about a fall in German imports.

Last year, Britain lost its position as Germany's second largest export market to Italy, and France maintained a solid lead. Britain accounted for 8.3 per cent of German exports, Italy 9 per cent, and France 12 per cent.

Nevertheless, even though data for the whole of 1990 are not yet available, Britain is almost certain to have retained its position as the second largest market for direct foreign investment, after the United States, despite the recession and the much denied di-



Production line: forklift trucks at Lansing Linde, in Basingstoke, Hampshire, the British company bought by Linde of Germany

version of funds into the eastern German economy.

Although the recession in Britain is a negative factor, its effects are likely to be limited because of German industry's well-known long-termism. British data show that Germans, unlike the Japanese, invest primarily in small projects, mainly in the capital goods sector. Despite this, there is also a small number of large German subsidiaries in Britain.

The largest is Siemens, which employs 12,000 staff in Britain, after a number of small acquisitions and most recently the Plessey deal. Then there are Germany's chemical giants, Bayer, BASF and Hoechst, three of Europe's largest companies, which together employ 11,300. Hoechst accounts for almost half of that, and was also one of the earliest arrivals in Britain, where it started to expand in 1970 with the acquisition of Berger, Jensen and Nicholson, a paint manufacturer. Other companies with large

subsidiaries in Britain include Linde, an engineering group, which bought Lansing Bagnall, a maker of lifting equipment, in 1989, and Continental, the tyre company, which in Britain owns Uniroyal and National Tyre Service.

The main advantage of Britain is lower wages. This year Germany has overtaken Switzerland as the country with the world's highest labour costs, at an average of DM35.74 (£12) an hour, compared with Britain's DM24.14 about (£8).

The difference is mainly due to the cost of social security and health, which in Germany account for 83 per cent of wages against 30 per cent in Britain.

There is, of course, the argument that hourly labour costs alone do not matter because they take no account of productivity. It is perhaps surprising, that the much cited productivity gap between Germany and Britain does not

seem to apply to German subsidiaries in Britain.

Dr Bernd Altenstaedt, the director of the German Industry Forum in Britain, quoted a recent survey among German subsidiaries showing that there were no differences in productivity between German plants and British subsidiaries, while in some cases British productivity exceeded that in Germany.

Dr Altenstaedt says: "It is not true to say that the people here are less productive or less motivated. If they work with modern equipment they are just as productive. Britain's low productivity has more to do with outdated equipment."

Britain also has disadvantages for German investors. "We have unsolved problems in the field of training which result in extra costs for employers," Dr Altenstaedt says. "In particular this is the case with engineers, scientists and skilled manual labour."

The second disadvantage is Britain's neglected infrastructure,

an important consideration for Germans, who are used to an extensive network of motorways and railways and heavily subsidised public infrastructure.

Most German subsidiaries are in the southeast of England because of London's international airports. The regional airports in the north of the country do not offer sufficient access to Germany's main cities.

Road congestion, deficiencies in public transport and the delay in the construction of a fast railway link to the Continent cause the greatest concern.

On balance, the advantages and disadvantages probably cancel one another out. What really matters is the performance of Britain's economy.

If the economy can sustain at least some of the momentum that was in evidence during the latter part of the Eighties, German investment in Britain will continue to grow. If not, the recent increase of interest will turn out to be shortlived.

Oxford experts win the business

SINGLE European market strategy, for many German companies, involves having only a few manufacturing sites, or "locations of excellence" — not necessarily in Germany — where a particular product is made and then distributed to other parts of Europe.

Some sites are in Britain. Siemens has chosen to have its worldwide centre for manufacturing advanced medical diagnostic equipment at Eynsham, near Oxford. Bosch has picked Miskin, near Cardiff, for its main alternator production.

Siemens closed its medical engineering plant in Erlangen, Germany, and concentrated operations at Eynsham. Götz Steinhardt, the finance director, explains: "There is a lot of expertise in the Oxford region on the design and production of superconducting magnets, which we sell around the world."

Siemens formed a joint venture with Oxford Instruments Group in 1989. Since then it has invested nearly £6 million, and the Eynsham site has been expanded. About 80 per cent of output is exported to countries that can afford to buy the latest technology in diagnostic imaging.

Bosch's £100 million alternator plant is the largest investment the company has made outside Germany. It is also the biggest single inward investment ever in Wales. The plant started production in January, and by 1995 should have a workforce of 1,200 producing five million units a year.

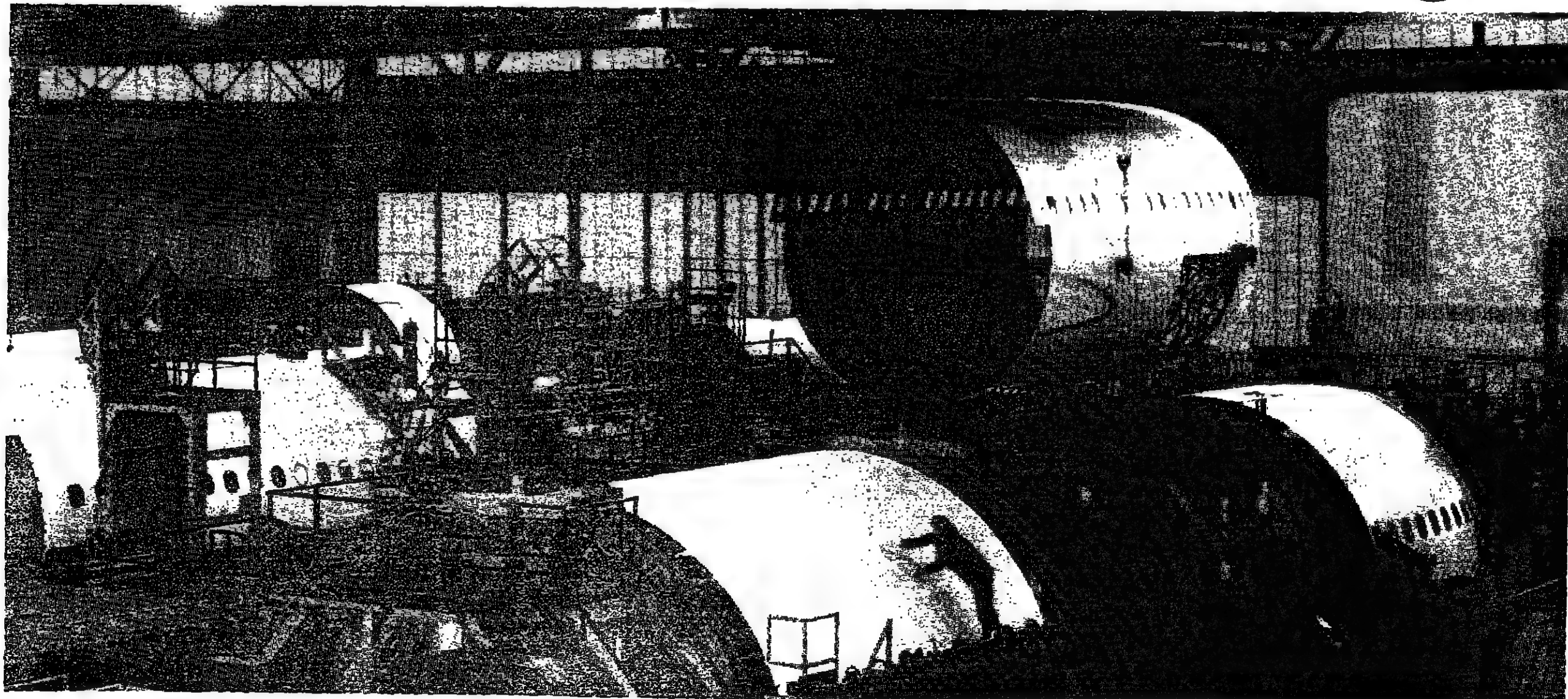
Most of the alternators will be exported, and Cardiff will replace Feuerbach, near Stuttgart, as Bosch's main alternator plant.

The company originally intended to use British suppliers, but has started by using suppliers in Germany and other continental countries, although it intends to switch to British suppliers "when the quality is right".

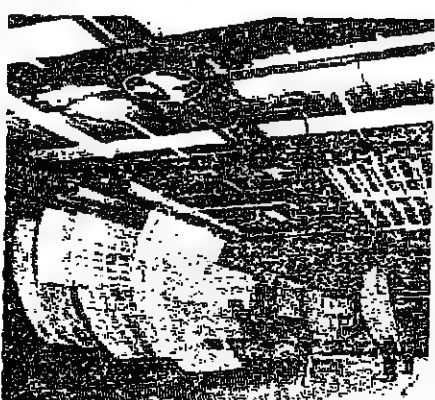
The workforce is a different matter. Dr Helmut Oberter, the managing director of Bosch's automotive equipment division, has paid tribute to its professionalism. The workers speak highly of the company's introductory course, which emphasises cooperation on the job through teamwork.

DAVID RUDNICK

Mechanical engineering + electronics Mannesmann's decisive edge



Assembly of the Airbus in Hamburg-Finkenwerder: The shell components are brought into the assembly bay by means of a radio controlled suspension monorail system. An overhead travelling crane then takes over, transferring these freely suspended fuselage components to their assembly points.



Airbus assembly system

The Airbus has taken off all over the world and is now locked onto a flightpath to success — thanks to a pioneering design concept backed up by equally advanced manufacturing and logistical techniques. A production system from Mannesmann Demag controls the fuselage assembly of all the different aircraft types which make up the Airbus family. Load

lifting and handling systems transfer the shell components "on the wing" from the warehousing system to the various workstations. There they are joined together to produce the longest single element of the plane — the body. The electronically driven system monitors all materials flow and step-by-step assembly and coordinates every production stage, executing each move quickly, reliably and with absolute precision.

Mannesmann builds plants and machinery, makes parts and components for the automotive industry, manufactures hydraulic, pneumatic and electrical drives and controls, develops and supplies measurement, automation and information technology, produces steel tube and pipe, provides services and trades on a worldwide scale. Income from sales earned by its 124,000 employees lies in the region of DM 23.9 billion.

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Recession reduced to a blip

German chemical companies take the longer-term view when the economy dips, Malcolm Brown says

The effects of the British recession are winking their way through to the chemical industry, but German chemical companies operating in this country are treating it more as a respectable blip than anything that demands fundamental change.

Arno Baltzer, the chairman of Hoechst UK, says the first three months of 1991 have been weak, and the company is "not quite on target". However, far from cutting back, Hoechst will probably increase its work-force this year. The downturn is seen not so much as a threat to the company's stability as a challenge to the ability of Herr Baltzer and his executives to manage.

Herr Baltzer believes that if the company's strategy is right and the management is functioning properly, there is no call for radical measures.

He says: "Our company is tidy, we have streamlined continuously, our critical success factors - tangible aspects such as stock control and accounts receivable - are really under control, so no drastic actions are necessary."

There might have to be a little "tweaking" here and there, "but you would do that in any case", he says.

Herr Baltzer says this attitude is probably quite different from that of British companies. "I think they are much more short-term target-oriented than we are," he says. "We probably take a longer view on development. We have had very good years in Britain, so we can also take the downturns and go on."

The expansion of the work-force is modest, probably another 100 on top of the

present 5,400, but at least this represents a cautious move forward rather than a retrenchment, Herr Baltzer says.

There is, of course, an important distinction between the effects of economic downturn and the long-term performance of specific businesses.

Herr Baltzer explains: "If a business unit's performance is inconsistent with its strategy, the unit may need to revise that strategy, which could include restructuring."

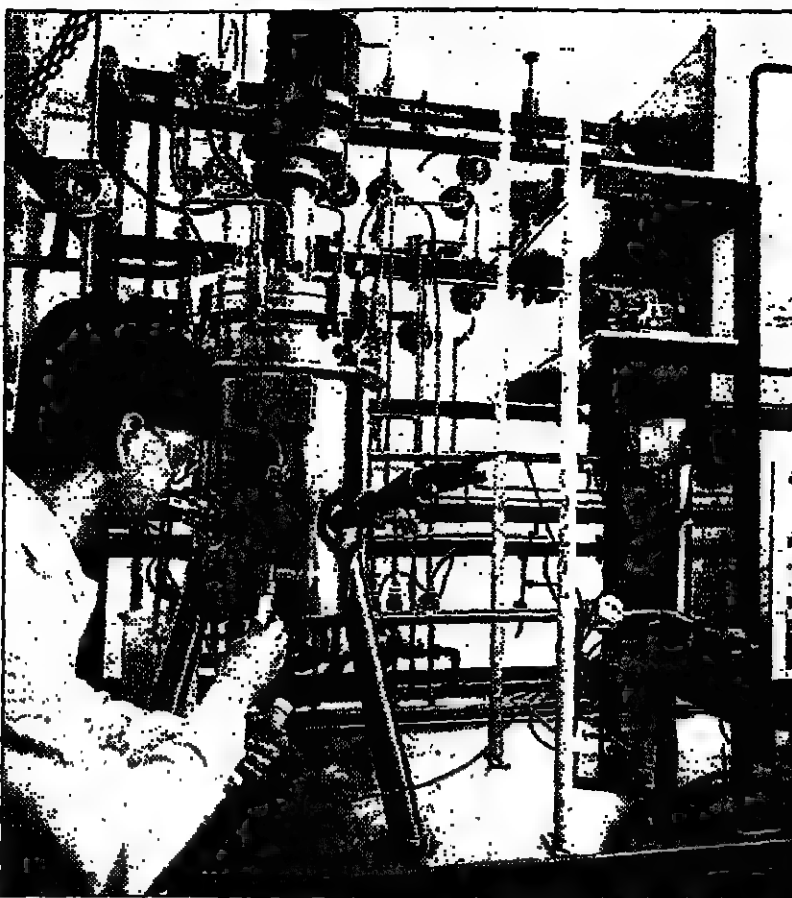
Other leading German chemical companies in Britain include Schering, the Cambridge-based agrochemical and pharmaceutical company, Bayer, which last year paid £56 million to buy the Sturge citric acid plant in Selby, North Yorkshire, from Rhône-Poulenc, and BASF, which has expanded considerably in recent years through acquisitions.

Bryan Rigby, the managing director of BASF in Britain, says: "In the past six years we have increased numbers employed here from about 500 to more than 2,000, and our turnover from about £250 million to £1 billion."

"It has been a mixture of organic growth and acquisition. Until 1990, we had double-digit organic growth every year I can remember."

Mr Rigby agrees with Herr Baltzer that German companies prefer to take a longer-term perspective, even in difficult times.

"I think that if we had an English or an American parent we would be much more likely to turn taps on and off in response to short-term fluctuations in our profit-generating capacity," he says.



Finding cures: vaccines are developed by Hoechst in Milton Keynes

"Being part of a German parent, we are much more likely to see through the trough in pursuit of an objective which seems worthwhile in the longer term."

Mr Rigby, who is British-born, thinks more subtle factors are at work too. Companies such as BASF allow a blend of British and German qualities, which perhaps reinforces the positive qualities of each. At the same time, he hopes, the blend balances out the negative qualities.

He says: "Our German colleagues have certain attitudes of long-term thinking and logical, consequential development, while I think the Anglo-Saxons are rather better at creativity."

"The thing that worries me about very, very careful planning is that if you are not careful it can become a straitjacket."

"On the other hand, the Anglo-Saxons are a very creative lot, and the danger of that is that you think you are so creative that you can get yourself out of any trouble. Therefore, you do not need to plan."

"It seems to me that what we ought to do is combine those two somehow - have careful plans that are flexible enough to be creative with."

Ambition in a tight market

The backbone of German industry is boosting the British economy

market is about 30 per cent smaller than in 1989. Despite that, Linde is setting ambitious market share targets. "If the market goes down, of course, you do not sell the same number of units," Herr Kulick says. "But our target is to increase market share even during the recession."

The present share of just over 25 per cent is 3.5 percentage points higher than last year's, and Herr Kulick expects to push this figure to 28 or 30 per cent during the next two years. He thinks he will accomplish it because companies such as Linde are pushing quality as a strong selling point.

"A flat market does not mean that the customer is looking for cheap, nasty products," Herr Kulick says. "Of course, price is one thing, but so are quality, the service network, the after-sales, and customer care."

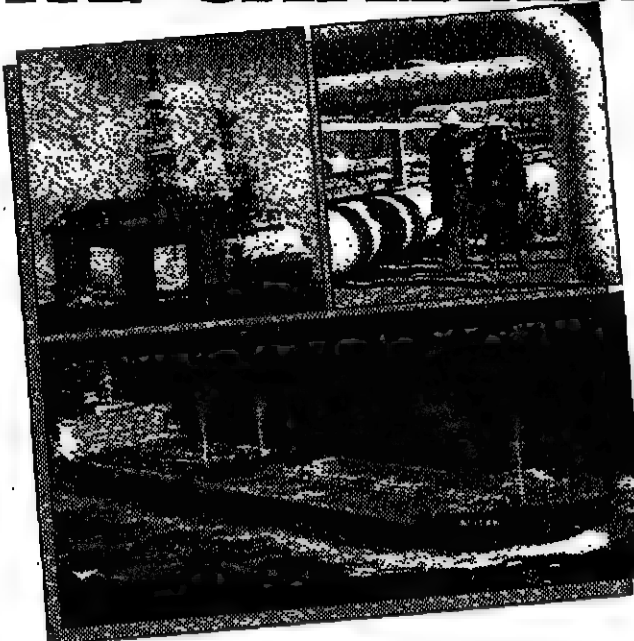
Because Linde is such a recent arrival, the company would make an interesting study for sociologists interested in industrial cultures in transition. The very British Linsing has become much more German in its thinking.

The whole approach is more aggressive, more systematic, less ad hoc, Herr Kulick says. "The intuitive approach is not the priority any more. Long-term forward planning is a new element. British companies normally look about two years ahead and what does not make money in two years is not worth it."

Linde's £40 million investment in new production plant is part of the long view, Herr Kulick says. The investment decisions were made soon after the Linsing Bagnall acquisition, but as the recession loomed, there was never any question of the development being put on ice, even temporarily.

Even more extraordinary, Herr Kulick thinks, is that the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification, which must have made most German companies think about their strategic aims, did not delay the British investment by even a day. "Even that did not change the attitude for one minute," he says.

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Hoechst

Sharing the limelight

Midsummer will be a busy time for Erco Lighting, the Mayfair-based subsidiary of Erco, the German specialists in architectural display lighting. The company has lit the new Sainsbury wing of the National Gallery and the Sackler Galleries at the Royal Academy of Arts, both of which will be opened in the next two months.

Erco has carved out a niche in the museums and galleries world. The company has also been involved in the Tate of the North in Liverpool, the Museum of Modern Art in Edinburgh, the McLellan Gallery in Glasgow and, most recently, the Crescent wing of the Sainsbury centre at the University of East Anglia, which opened last month.

Erco's privately owned German parent was established in Lüdenscheid, near Düsseldorf, in 1934. The company had never sold anything in this country before the British subsidiary was set up in 1979.

Malcolm Brown discovers a company still winning orders despite the shadow hanging over the construction industry

"We started without a paper clip, really," says Kristian Hertzum, the Danish-born managing director. "At the end of 1979 we started marketing and selling. There were about 16 people. In the first full year we sold about £1 million, and by last year we achieved £10.9 million, so that's practically a million growth every year."

The building industry has taken a hammering recently, and the company will probably only match last year's turnover in 1991.

"We might have had a little bit of a boom in the later Eighties, but I think the next few years are going to be tough," Mr Hertzum says. "The market-place is getting smaller. The building industry is more or less coming to a

standstill. We hope it's reached the bottom now and will start looking better."

Mr Hertzum estimates that Erco now has about 10 per cent of the architectural lighting display market in the United Kingdom. Although the group has six other overseas subsidiaries (in Belgium, The Netherlands, France, Spain, Italy and Norway), the British company exports its products. They account for £1.5 million of the £10.9 million total, going to the Republic of Ireland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

Mr Hertzum sees lighting not just as a design extra, but a vital part of the architectural process. "It's the fourth dimension of architecture. The building comes to life

when the correct lighting is applied."

Out of a staff of more than 60, the 25 sales staff are all lighting engineers. "They know their products, and they know how to translate the architect's ideas into hardware," Mr Hertzum says.

One of the most highly regarded of the company's recent projects was the lighting of the new terminal at Stansted airport, designed by Norman Foster, the prize-winning architect — the lighting for whose own new offices was installed by Erco.

The Stansted job is probably the one which gave Mr Hertzum the greatest pleasure, because of the technical challenge involved. "It's a unique project," he says. "They wanted 'uplighting' — throwing the light up on the ceiling instead of down from the ceiling — which nobody else really understood."

"We really grasped that. It demanded a very complicated reflector design, which is our speciality."



A challenge solved: Stansted airport, where the light is thrown up on the ceiling by specially designed reflectors

Instant availability of components can be a money saver for car manufacturers

One of the fastest growing groups of German companies in Britain is made up of car component suppliers. Increasingly, companies are setting up manufacturing plants here to get closer to their customers (Malcolm Brown writes).

The best known is Bosch, which has just opened a big plant outside Cardiff to make alternators. Other products now manufactured "on the doorstep" include instruments (VDO Instruments of Frankfurt has set up an assembly plant in the West Midlands), brake components (Teves in South Wales), fan belts and mirrors.

One company, Bruhl, took over the Austin Rover group's foundries in the Midlands, and now supplies engine blocks and engine heads to British industry.

Among the most successful of the recent arrivals is Devalit, a wholly-owned

'Just in time' delivery goes into overdrive

subsidiary of Devalit van Deest of Wuppertal, one of the leading German suppliers of injection mouldings to the automobile industry. Devalit built a new plant in Scunthorpe in 1988, and supplies British industry with everything from bumpers to ashtrays.

Roy Jenkins, the chief executive of Devalit UK, thinks there are two main pressures encouraging German companies to put down roots here. The first is the growing trend among car-makers to demand

so-called "just-in-time" deliveries. The closer the suppliers are to the car-maker the easier it is to supply components almost instantaneously, so that the manufacturer does not have to carry expensive stocks of materials.

The second pressure is more political: an evident desire among the car companies to "buy British". "The motor industry here is looking to have a strong base. They are saying they want to redevelop a source of expertise around them," Mr Jenkins says.

The just-in-time concept is not restricted to car-makers. Suppliers such as Devalit now run everything to a tight timetable. "It is about long-term cost reduction," Mr Jenkins says. "Holding stocks costs a lot of money. So, at every stage in the manufacture of the car, starting from the people who make the basic plastic granules at the chemical companies, to people like Devalit who process it and the people who put it together into cars... everyone is trying to reduce stocks and get lead times down to as short as possible."

The car-makers do not want to stock components, but neither do the component makers want to carry big inventories. "We are talking about not actually making it until just before it is wanted," Mr Jenkins says. "We buy our plastic as late as possible and make it in as small batches as economically possible."

British-made Bavarian yoghurt

BY the middle of 1992 the first of 350 million pots of Bavarian yoghurt and dessert a year will flow off production lines in Shropshire.

Molkerei Alois Müller, of Aretzried, which already ships 5.5 million pots, about 70 vehicle loads, to Britain every week, will supply British needs from Market Drayton (Malcolm Brown writes). The company will also export from

the British plant to Belgium, France, The Netherlands and Scandinavia.

Müller already accounts for about 11.5 per cent of the British yoghurt market and between 7 and 8 per cent of the dessert market. The main yoghurt brands are Fruit Corner, Crunch Corner and Müller Light.

Ken Wood, the joint managing director of Müller

UK, hopes to employ about 140 people initially in Market Drayton, growing to perhaps 500 during the next few years. At present the importing operation is run from Windsor, Berkshire. "It is all transported from Bavaria across 1,000 miles against orders that we place from our office, and then deposited in two depots at Milton Keynes and Manchester," Mr Wood says.

The company began test launches in selected stores in March 1987. Mr Wood says: "It was important for us to put a toe into the water to establish whether there was a market for Müller in the UK."

"Having done that, we established that there was a very large market. Then with the quantities involved it rapidly became obvious that we had to manufacture in the UK. Then it was simply a question of finding the right place to build."

Two factors led the company to choose Market Drayton. The first was the availability of milk. Research soon showed that about 25 per cent of Britain's milk supply came from within a 50-mile radius of Market Drayton.

The second consideration was to find a focal point for distribution. "We measured miles travelled for finished products for every customer, then used a program to find the optimum location," Mr Wood says. "The combination of those two factors put us

fairly and squarely into Shropshire."

The first phase of the scheme, which also involves facilities to produce desserts, will cost about £20 million.

Müller was persuaded to move to Market Drayton partly by Stuart McCombie, the project development officer in Shropshire county council's economic development department. Müller had originally considered



Ken Wood: "right place"

acquiring a British dairy plant, but Shropshire council suggested instead a greenfield site at the Tern Valley Business Park. Müller made an offer within a month.

"Initially they were looking for only five acres. Since then they have gone for a 22-acre site," Mr McCombie says. "The whole development has grown considerably. That is mainly down to the success of Müller in Britain during the past couple of years."

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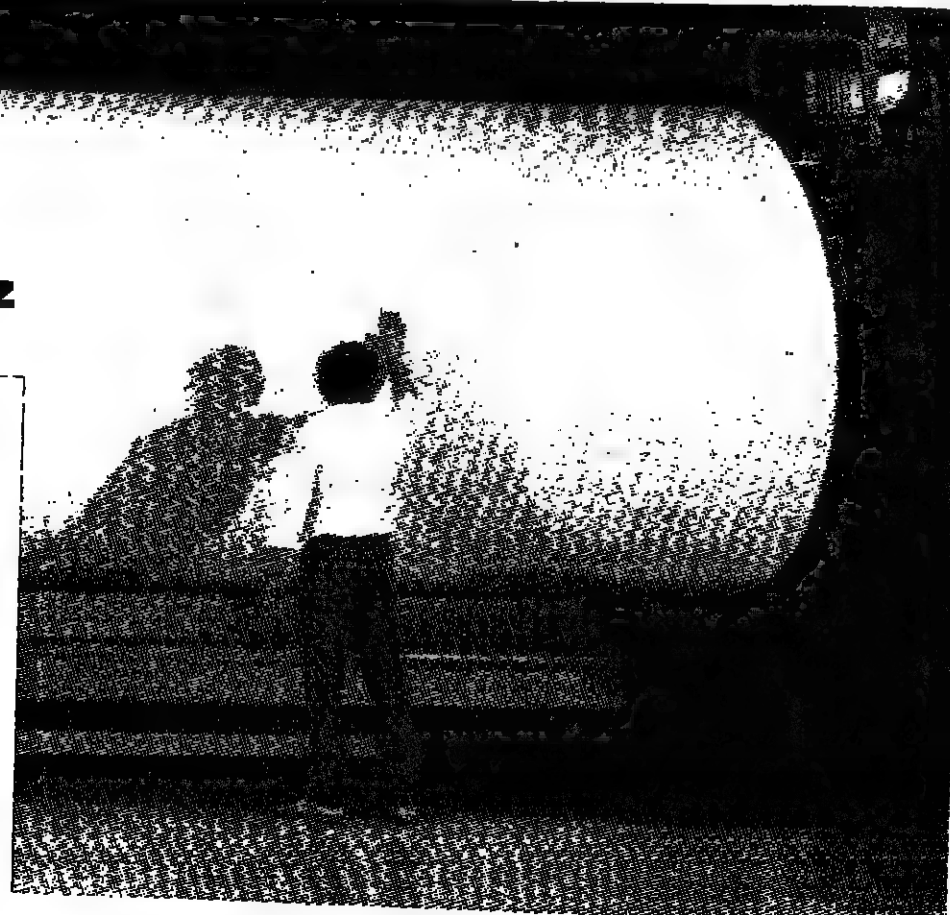
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Life at the top in London

Mention the recession to David Goldstone, the chairman of Regalian, which built 3a Palace Green, where apartments cost from £2 million to £13.5 million, and he says: "The recession was never a consideration. We are looking for only 20 people, of very substantial riches. I cannot guarantee queues of people wanting to buy, but we have done something very special: the right thing in the right place."

The building, opposite Kensington Palace, is the first to go up for 20 years in this exclusive ambassadorial enclave, and is one of two developments of a scale, cost and opulence that seem to contradict the property downturn. The other, on a five-acre site vacated by St Mary Abbots hospital in Marlow Road, Kensington, is a terrace of town houses priced at £1.25 million, the first to be completed in what will be one of the largest central London developments in years. This is a joint venture between Taylor Woodrow Capital Developments (TWCD) and Mitsui Kensetsu (UK).

Regalian bought the 0.64-acre Palace Green site, formerly a barracks, for £22.2 million from the Crown Estate, and varied the planning permission for 40 flats, halving the number, increasing their size and sumptuousness, and providing a staff flat for each of the 20 apartments.

This was a bold decision, but Mr Goldstone wanted to take full advantage of the value of the address and attempt the most magnificent development in London to a standard that could not be matched elsewhere in the world.

He says he was a bit "jumpy" about the project on occasions, but adds: "We are proud to have done it. I believe we

A Kensington penthouse is on the market for £13.5 million, reports Christopher Warman, in an area recession has seemingly not reached

have created a very fine development. I am conscious that I am there to be shot at for the expense, but this building is of a quality never contemplated before, let alone achieved."

A measure of that standard is the building cost of about £400 a sq ft, compared with £80 to £120 for average-to-good schemes. No expense has been spared in decorating and furnishing the three show apartments: those on sale at £4.25 million and £6.25 million have had £300,000 lavished on each of them, while the £13.5 million penthouse cost £1 million to have decorated by the interior designer David Hicks.

The totally secure development stands behind formal gardens, including a traditional knot garden, and the underground parking provides each apartment with space for one large car and two standard-sized cars, with a further space for each of the four penthouses.

Service charges are likely to be around £20,000 a year, but for that the owner has a resident general manager, with experience in international hotel management, and a team recruited from the hotel industry with a brief to provide a service comparable to the standards of a five-



Palace Green: awaits 20 rich buyers

star establishment. There is also a resident chief engineer to cope with the sophisticated equipment that includes the first of a new type of air-conditioning system and up to 12 telephone lines for each apartment.

Designed by the architects YRM, and built by Bovis Construction, the brick and stone building uses more than 20 types of Italian marble.

The 16 apartments, costing from £2 million to £7.5 million, vary in size from 2,285 sq ft to 4,950 sq ft, and the four penthouses, £9.75 million to £13.5 million, from 4,915 sq ft to 5,776 sq ft. The agents are Savills and Hamptons, who report considerable interest, from Britain and overseas.

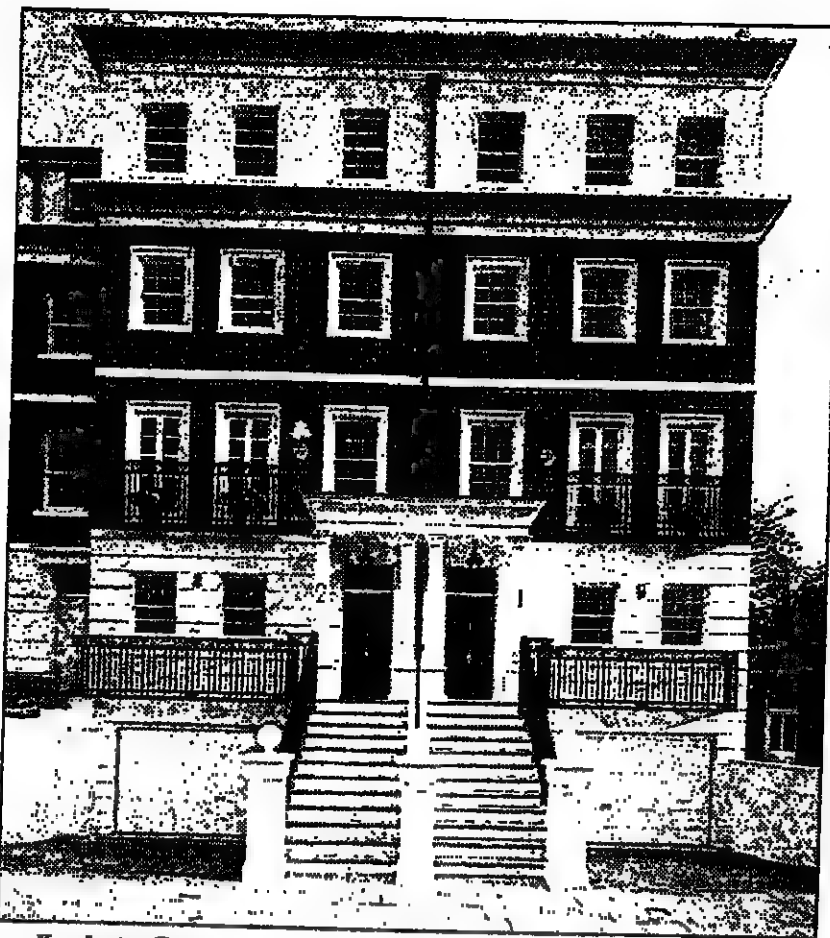
About a mile away, Taylor Woodrow bought the St Mary Abbots site for £47 million from the North Thames Regional Health Authority, and when completed in summer 1992 this first phase of Kensington Green will contain 112 one, two and three-bedroom apartments, eight penthouses and 45 four and five-bedroom townhouses.

The company has an option on a further four acres, available when the Westminster and Chelsea hospital in Fulham Road is completed, that has planning permission for homes and a leisure complex in the Stone Hall, a listed building on the site. This, says Paul Hedges, the chairman of Taylor Woodrow Properties, makes it the largest single area of planned development in central London.

He admits that there has been some frustration in dealings with the local authority and the six residents' associations in the area, and the company is seeking to improve the planning consent for the second phase.

The first ten townhouses for sale are on five floors, designed by the architects Norman & Dawbarn in a 19th century style, with stucco and red brick facades to complement the existing early Victorian architecture around them.

The five-bedroom houses - priced at £1.25 million, except for the furnished



Kensington Green: one of the biggest central London developments for years

show house at £1.8 million which has a David Hicks design, have three reception rooms, three bathrooms and a separate shower room. Double doors from the first floor drawing room lead to a second room that could be used either as a study or library, and from the dining room french doors give access to a 30ft walled garden.

In addition, communal open spaces are being provided, centred on Chantry Square, a circular garden retaining existing trees. Each house has its own security system and the porter's lodge is manned 24 hours a day.

Paul Austin, the marketing director of TWCD, says: "To my knowledge, in terms of quality, size and location there is nothing else in the residential market comparable to Kensington Green."

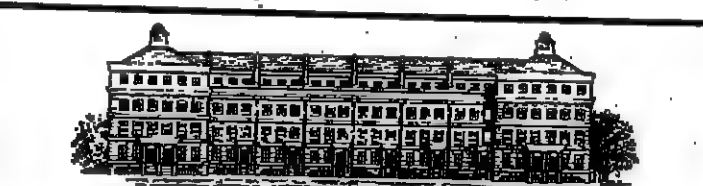
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Perpendicular to solve Dante riddle

HENRY Cecil and his owners have set punters a problem at York today by electing to run both Perpendicular and Peter Davies in the William Hill Dante Stakes. Both are unbeaten and both still have their sights set on the Derby at Epsom in three weeks' time.

With Steve Caughan claimed by Sheikh Mohammed, Lester Piggott will don his friend Charles St George's black and white silks on Peter Davies while Willie Ryan will wear Lord Howard de Walden's famous apricot colours on Perpendicular.

This is a classic trial that

For Perpendicular, who is by Shirley Heights out of a half-sister to Kris and Diels, he worked well enough on good fast ground on the Limeroids on Saturday to suggest that he will cope with the current conditions underfoot.

Unlike Perpendicular, Peter Davies is a notoriously lazy worker as I saw with my own eyes when I was out on the heath during the morning of the 2,000 Guineas.

Last autumn, Peter Davies also looked a hard ride when he made heavy weather of beating Bog Trotter at Newmarket and Mukaddamah at

Doncaster. But he is a hard fast and that will suit him today.

However, on the form he began to look a little suspect (able since the 2,000 Guineas to happy in a top race on Perpendicular in the Limeroids).

Underfoot, Perpendicular has a slight edge. He was the new winner of the Limeroids at Sandown, instead of a fourth place for Peter Davies. He was also a winner of the Limeroids at Doncaster, where he was beaten by two-and-a-half lengths at Leicester.

On Saturday, Peter Davies was a hard ride on the heath, but he was a hard fast and that will suit him today.

In the Derby, Perpendicular is a hard fast and that will suit him today.

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MANDARIN		
2.00 Sylvan Sabre	2.35 Tetrads	3.05 Macrobias
3.40 PERPENDICULAR (nap)	4.10 Lovelock	4.45 High Low

THUNDERER		
2.00 Corals Dream	2.35 Tetrads	3.05 Macrobias
3.40 PERPENDICULAR (nap)	4.10 Lovelock	4.45 High Low

MICHAEL SEELY		
2.00 Corals Dream	2.35 Tetrads	3.05 Macrobias
3.40 PERPENDICULAR (nap)	4.10 Lovelock	4.45 High Low

Our Nemarket Correspondent: 3.40 PERPENDICULAR (nap). 4.45 High Low.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 DALTON STAKES (2-Y-O; 25.692.60) (6 runners)		
101 (6) 181 CHADLEIGH HOUSE 8 (5) (J. Bagg) R. Hoffmann 9-3	102 (6) 182 JOHN ROBERT 7 (4) (J. Bagg) R. Hoffmann 9-3	103 (6) 183 SYLVAN SABRE 7 (5) (R. Johnson) P. Mitchell 9-3
104 (6) 184 SYLVAN SABRE 7 (5) (R. Johnson) P. Mitchell 9-3	105 (6) 185 SYLVAN SABRE 7 (5) (R. Johnson) P. Mitchell 9-3	106 (6) 186 SYLVAN SABRE 7 (5) (R. Johnson) P. Mitchell 9-3

3.40 WILLIAM HILL DANTE STAKES (Group 1; 2-Y-O; 25.692.60) (6 runners)		
101 (6) 181 CHADLEIGH HOUSE 8 (5) (J. Bagg) R. Hoffmann 9-3	102 (6) 182 JOHN ROBERT 7 (4) (J. Bagg) R. Hoffmann 9-3	103 (6) 183 SYLVAN SABRE 7 (5) (R. Johnson) P. Mitchell 9-3
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MICHAEL SEELY		
2.00 Corals Dream	2.35 Tetrads	3.05 Macrobias
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1890:

Shadayid is trimmed as trial fails to shed light

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE remarkable run of success of Clive Brittain and Michael Roberts continued at York yesterday when Gussy Marlowe gallantly resisted the determined attack of Dartry to win the Tattersalls Musidora Stakes by a head.

The runner-up and Shamshir, who finished a further two lengths away, third, are now joint second favourites at 7-1 for the Oaks. Shadayid, the 1,000 Guineas winner, was trimmed by all the leading firms and is now a top-priced 7-4 with Ladbrokes, Hills offering 13-8 and Coral 6-4.

Gussy Marlowe, though, was never entered for Epsom. "We thought she was too big and backward and doubted whether she would act on the course," said Brittain, after extending his lead at the head of the training table. "But she's entered in the Ribblesdale and we can supplement her for the Irish Oaks."

Roberts, continuing to ride like a man inspired, excelled himself by making all the running on Gussy Marlowe. "I knew that she was race-fit and wanted to exploit her stamina. She's very game and kept on well despite pricking her ears and looking about her."

Entering the last furlong, the field, with the exception of the disappointing Jaffa Line, were stretched in line abreast across the course. But Dartry proved the strongest of the beaten horses in the last furlong. "She is improving all the time," said Michael Stout. "She's certainly earned the right to go for the Oaks."

Similarly, Luca Cumani was delighted with the performance of Shamshir. "She tired in the last furlong. Her family tend not to be at their best time out and I'm sure she will benefit a lot from the run," Cumani said.

Hills drop the Dante

THE group two Dante Stakes, Britain's richest Derby trial, is to be run under the William Hill banner for the last time today (Michael Seely writes).

John Smithy not dropping at the course at York, said yesterday: "We are very sorry to lose such a loyal sponsor. We will now be seeking a new sponsor for what is currently the most valuable and competitive Derby trial."

York
Going good to firm
2.0 (m 40) 1. POULSTON (K. Darby, 11-2), 2. T. F. (11-2), 3. D. (11-2), 4. D. (11-2), 5. D. (11-2), 6. D. (11-2), 7. D. (11-2), 8. D. (11-2), 9. D. (11-2), 10. D. (11-2), 11. D. (11-2), 12. D. (11-2), 13. D. (11-2), 14. D. (11-2), 15. D. (11-2), 16. D. (11-2), 17. D. (11-2), 18. D. (11-2), 19. D. (11-2), 20. D. (11-2), 21. D. (11-2), 22. D. (11-2), 23. D. (11-2), 24. D. (11-2), 25. D. (11-2), 26. D. (11-2), 27. D. (11-2), 28. D. (11-2), 29. D. (11-2), 30. D. (11-2), 31. D. (11-2), 32. D. (11-2), 33. D. (11-2), 34. D. (11-2), 35. D. (11-2), 36. D. (11-2), 37. D. (11-2), 38. D. (11-2), 39. D. (11-2), 40. D. (11-2), 41. D. (11-2), 42. D. (11-2), 43. D. (11-2), 44. D. (11-2), 45. D. (11-2), 46. D. (11-2), 47. D. (11-2), 48. D. (11-2), 49. D. (11-2), 50. D. (11-2), 51. D. (11-2), 52. D. (11-2), 53. D. (11-2), 54. D. (11-2), 55. D. (11-2), 56. D. (11-2), 57. D. (11-2), 58. D. (11-2), 59. D. (11-2), 60. D. (11-2), 61. D. (11-2), 62. D. (11-2), 63. D. (11-2), 64. D. (11-2), 65. D. (11-2), 66. 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United they stand for positive virtues

Manchester United attempt to win the European Cup Winners' Cup against Barcelona in Rotterdam tonight. David Miller recalls their finest hour, the 1968 European Cup triumph at Wembley, as a turning point in their history

For 23 years, Manchester United have been trying to recapture an art in a game that has become increasingly a science. Maybe Webb, Ince, Hughes and Sharpe will touch on artistry in tonight's European Cup Winners' Cup final here, but United's chances of beating Barcelona will depend as much on the ability of Robson, Bruce, Pallister, Phelan and others to excel at the ordinary, the way most of their Old Trafford forebears did at Wembley in 1968.

That emotional, tortuous and ultimately emphatic victory over Benfica in the European Cup was a milestone in the history of United more than in the history of football. The fourth and last of Matt Busby's outstanding teams was the last finest, but this 4-1 victory was his ultimate and just reward. What the match did represent was a turning point in the global style, with two immensely creative clubs gradually being forced by others and by the decline in exceptional individuals, towards functionalism. It was the season, let us not forget, in which Busby switched from 4-2-4 to 4-3-3, albeit still with two wingers in Best and Aston.

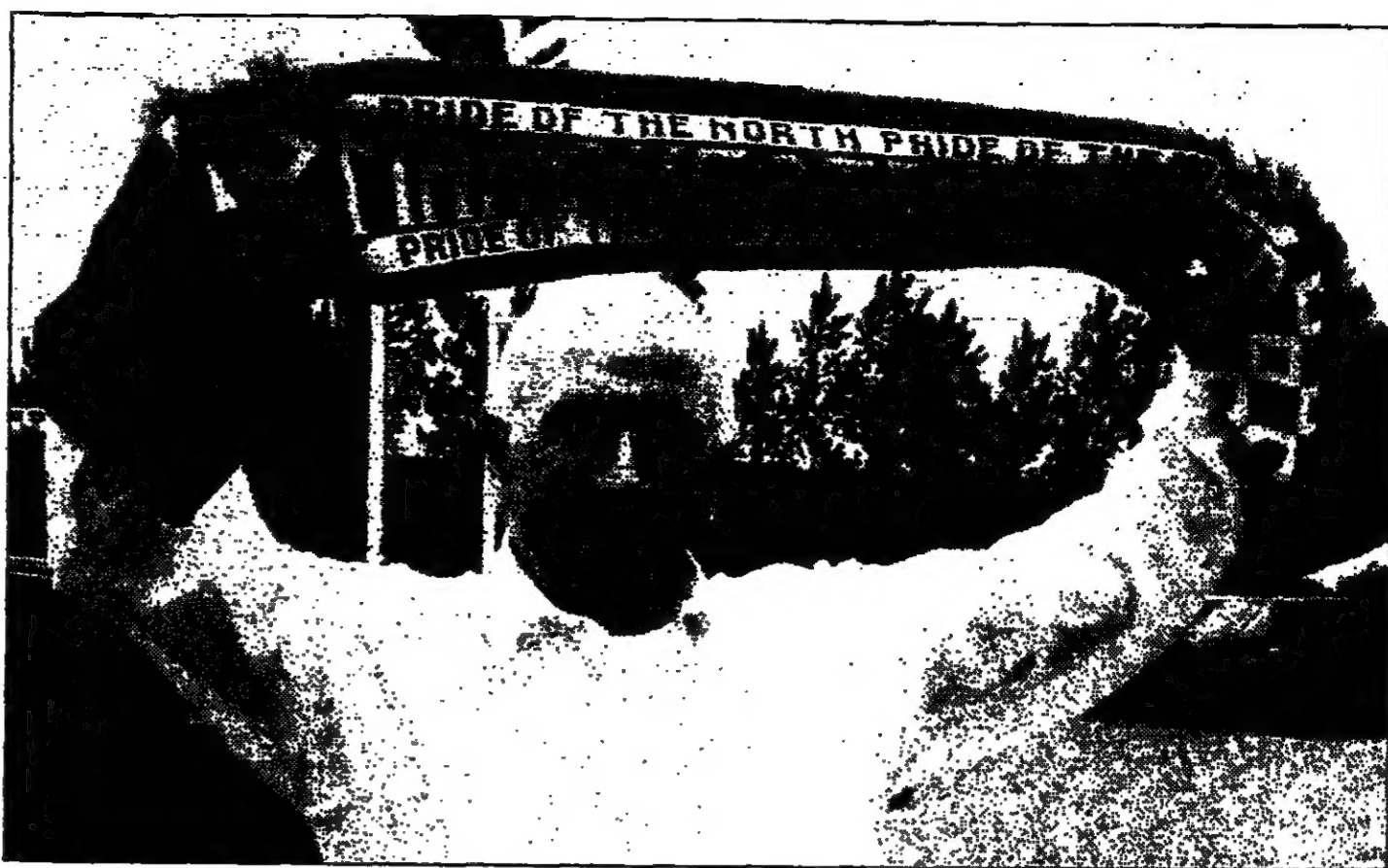
Do players make the game or does the game make the players? It is an unending question. We remember the event of 1968 as much as we remember Best's magical, decisive goal early in extra time. Reginald Keesom, Hughes and Sharpe will help make today's match, but the aura of the occasion is made by the fame of the two clubs. The result will be determined, partially, by how much either team wants to win, and that will depend on how

much the occasion means to each player.

The story of '68 was made by three scoring chances; one of them in the semi-final by Foulkes, his only goal in 35 European matches, the others in the final by Best, who did not. The charm of football is that it is the world's foremost soap opera, and never was this more true than of Manchester United and Benfica, half a dozen of the 22 players being sporting household names.

One, Law, was missing. He was in hospital. Two summers earlier Law had responded to Busby's shrewd rebuff of a demand for a re-signing on fee by becoming the club's leading scorer for the fourth time in five seasons. United, consequently, earned a place in the European Cup by winning the 1967 League title - Busby's fifth in 15 years - with record average goals of 33.800.

Yet Busby knew that the mounting, expedient tide was moving away from, and intimidating, his traditional policy of excellence and entertainment. That is why, controversially, he had allowed his own club's reputation to be tarnished, by exchanging fire with fire, when he found that Charlton, Law and Best were incessantly hacked to the ground. Between the Munich crash of 1958 and the European victory, United had had 20 players sent off and 70 booked. Again they were in the running for the League in 1967-8 - with new record goals of 57,549 - but were squeezed out by Malcolm Allison's effervescent Manchester City. And in the European Cup, with Law and Stiles both suffering injuries, United made edgy progress. It was in 1966 that they

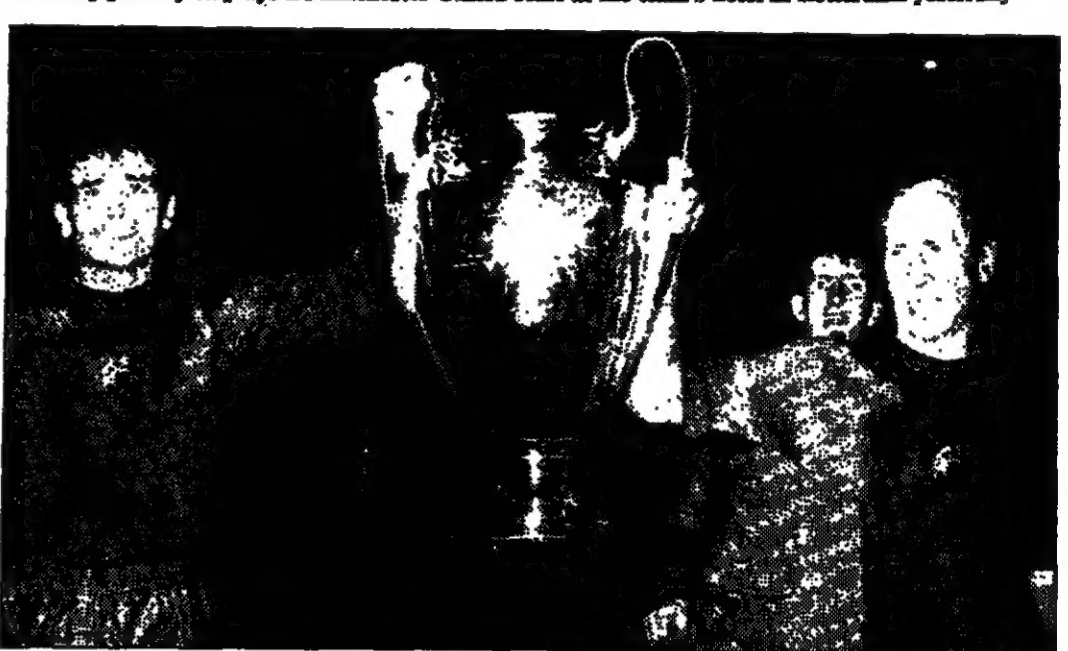


Memories are made of this: Matt Busby proudly displays a Manchester United scarf at the team's hotel in Rotterdam yesterday

should have won the Cup, trouncing Benfica 8-3 in the quarter-finals - the 5-1 away victory being the creation of Best - only then to lose to Partizan Belgrade, losers of the final.

For the quarter-final against Gornik Zabrze in 1968, Busby made a rare compromise, opting for caution in the away leg and scraping through 2-1 on aggregate. It was the same for the semi-final against Real Madrid, following a single-goal victory at home. Kidd and Best were the only two forwards in Madrid. At half time United were losing 3-1. Reverting to habit, Busby told his astonished team in the dressing-room: "Go out and attack. Enjoy it." Sadler switched to the front line, scored, and Foulkes hit the memorable aggregate winner.

With Law out of contention, Busby, after much deliberation, kept the same team for the final, with a 4-3-3 formation, Benfica preferring to liberate their players with an attacking 4-2-4. The Benfica team was: Henrique, Adolfo, Humberto, Jacinto, Cruz, Graca, Colma, Augusto, Torres, Stiles, Simoes. Stiles, having missed Eusebio in the World Cup semi-final two years previously, set about a repeat, kick-fucking into him again and again. Neither team could work free. Ten minutes after half-time, Charlton scored with a rare, glancing header from Sadler's cross, only for Graca to equalise



The European Cup at last: Brennan joins Charlton on United's 1968 lap of honour

ten minutes from time. It was now, with minutes remaining, that Eusebio should have settled it. Breaking clear from Stiles for the first time, he found Stepany had advanced too early. Attempting to 'burst' the net instead of placing the ball, Eusebio hit a scorching shot which Stepany spectacularly saved close to his legs. It was symptomatic of the times, that Eusebio ran forward to congratulate him.

As United lay on the pitch exhausted, awaiting extra-time, Busby was true to a lifetime's belief: "Keep possession, play for width, keep attacking," he pleaded. From Stepany's long clearance, glanced on by Kidd, Best floated round Cruz, his full back, then around Henrique and cued the ball into an empty net. Pandemonium. Then Kidd, the boy, having a first header palmed onto the bar by Henrique, nodded

home the rebound. Charlton hit a fourth. The memory of Byrne, Edwards, Colman, Taylor, Whelan, Jones, Pegg and Bent had been avenged; the legend of Manchester United further substantiated; the names of Busby, Charlton and Best more deeply engraved in the game's history. This is the benefit, and the pride, that will be riding with Bryan Robson's men this evening.

Football Venables fears pressures may tell

By CLIVE WHITE

FOUR days before a match that could have an important bearing on the future of Paul Gascoigne, never mind the debt-ridden club for which he plays, Terry Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, admitted yesterday that he "feared" for the player because of the pressure he was under.

Gascoigne seems destined to join Lazio for a fee of £2.5 million to appease Tottenham's main creditor, the Midland Bank, unless Venables and his fellow consortium members can gain control of the club in the next few weeks, if not days.

"I do fear for Gazza for all the pressure he is under," Venables said. "When I watched him cry in the World Cup semi-final against West Germany last summer I knew something big was about to happen. I was just surprised it happened so quickly for him."

"I think he will be a success on the Continent, although he will encounter a lot of frustrations over there, on and off the pitch. He's still a young guy and tries to cope with all the pressure."

Venables, who has tried to dissuade Gascoigne from joining the Italian club, knows that defeat against Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup final at Wembley on Saturday would only hasten Gascoigne's departure.

Meanwhile, Venables's own association with the club - his contract expires in the summer - almost certainly hinges on the result of the takeover offer.

"Of course it has crossed my mind that the next two games could be my last for Tottenham and for Gazza," he said. "I'm still trying to look ahead and plan for the long-term future."

Despite the difficulties in trying to keep Tottenham on course for an important trophy while also being deeply involved in protracted negotiations for the purchase of the club, Venables said that he would go through it all again if necessary.

"Obviously I still want to take over the club and I've nailed my colours to the mast on that," he said.

"I'm still waiting to hear from them. When you're dealing with the amount of debt the club is in it does take a long, long time. But I'm hopeful."

Waddle loss for England

CHRIS Waddle has been withdrawn from the England squad for the international against the Soviet Union at Wembley next week by his club, Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough are pursuing a unique trade of European Cup, French league championship and French cup, and are planning to switch their league fixture with Nice from May 25 to May 22 - a date just 24 hours after England's match with the Soviets.

They want the Nice game brought forward to allow them extra time to prepare for the European Cup final against Red Star Belgrade, of Yugoslavia, on May 29 - a game which keeps Waddle out of contention for England's summer tour to Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

□ Knee ligament damage has forced the Celtic defender, Chris Morris, to withdraw from the Republic of Ireland's squad for the international against Chile on May 22.

□ The Scottish Football Association yesterday signed a £12 million sponsorship deal with the sportswear company, Umbro International. The deal is the biggest contract signed by the SFA and will run until 1997.

□ Luton Town players yesterday told the club's board of directors that they were unhappy the dismissal of the manager, Jim Ryan, on Monday. However they have ruled out any form of protest.

□ Brighton's hopes of reaching the first division via the second division promotion play-offs suffered a setback when the Republic of Ireland international forward, John Byrne, underwent a cartilage operation late on Monday night.

□ Rund Gullik, of AC Milan, has dismissed speculation that he is about to be sold by the Italian club.

□ Local residents in Eastleigh, Hampshire, have voiced opposition to Southampton's plans to move from The Dell and build a new 25,000-seat stadium near their homes.

MOTOR RALLYING

Britons move up field

THE British team recovered from a poor start to reach third overall in the Camel Trophy, the international driving and endurance event, which started in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, at the weekend (a Special Correspondent writes).

Andrew Street and Tim Dray fared badly in the opening tasks, which tested navigational and driving skills as well as physical fitness, and were briefly fifth out of the 17 teams taking part.

They did better in the first of the night tasks, winning a 45-kilometre navigational exercise to take maximum points. They also won a combined driving and orienteering task the following day and finished second and third in two others, improving their overall position to third behind the Turkish and Australian teams.

Long ban for player

BRENT Saperaga, a leading ice hockey player, has been banned from playing in Britain for the rest of the year for violent conduct and abusing opponents at a Helsinki League match last month.

Saperaga, of Solihull Barons, was thrown out of a quarter-final play-off match at Durham Wasps for trying to knee an opponent in the face. Afterwards, he was reported for making abusive gestures.

CYCLING: Sean Yates, of Britain, finished three seconds behind the winner, Nathan Aspinall, an American amateur, in the fifth stage of the Tour Du Pont road race in Richmond, Virginia.

HOCKEY: Jason Laslett, the Teddington captain, has been named Poundstretcher player of the season.

TABLE TENNIS: The Soviet Union, the European junior champions, will compete in the English junior open championships at Bridlington from May 25 to 27.

ATELETICS: The 1994 European indoor championships will be staged in Paris.

BOXING

Adviser talks in millions as Lewis TV contract is signed

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX Lewis, the British and European heavyweight champion, could be the highest earning British sportsman ever in 18 months.

Roger Levin, Lewis's commercial manager, who has just signed a seven-figure deal with TVCO, would not say what the contract was worth, but claimed that the sixth bout alone, a world championship eliminator, could give Lewis anything from \$5 million (nearly £3 million) to \$10 million.

Such a sum, the head of HBO-TVCO, talking from Florida on a BT and Link, likened the value of the first three bouts to "an American Express goldcard".

He said that he had signed Lewis because it had always been HBO's policy to stay in touch with future champions - Marvin Hagler, Mike Tyson and

Julio Cesar Chavez - and he regarded the Englishman as the first real heavyweight threat since Henry Cooper.

Shelley Finkel, the manager of Evander Holyfield, the world champion, said: "Lennox is the future." Finkel admitted that he had wanted to sign Lewis after he won an Olympic gold medal in Seoul. Both Abrahams and Finkel guaranteed Lewis a world title bout with Holyfield (if he is still the champion) in October 1992.

Lewis's first bout will be against Tyrrell Biggs or Mike Weaver at Lake Tahoe, Nevada. He will then defend his British and European titles against Glen McCrory, of County Durham, at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester, on September 7. A month or two later Lewis will head a bill entitled "Night of the Young

Champions", featuring the third line of world contenders in the top ten: Riddick Bowe, Ray Mercer, Bruce Fiddon and Tommy Morrison.

On January 7, 1992, Lewis plans to meet Derek Williams, of Fockham, the Commonwealth champion. He will have a bout in March, which will be followed by the world title eliminator in June or July. If he comes through that he will meet the world champion in October.

Lewis is free to challenge Mike Tyson if he becomes world champion again. Each Lewis bout is expected to be seen by 12 million viewers in Britain and 40 million in the United States. If he is still in contention after the elimination bout, he will be the first "Hive" British challenger for the world heavyweight title for three decades.

YACHTING

Cup rules require revision

THE San Diego Yacht Club, left to puzzle how to rework the rules in the America's Cup next year, after last week's world championship, should pay a visit to the Solent next week (Barry Pickhall writes). The Royal Lyngby Yacht Club, host to the Worldline Lyngby Cup match race championship, is introducing a number of rule amendments designed to sharpen interest.

The most important is the abandonment of penalty turns imposed for rule infringements, which destroys any continuation of the engagements that can make the sport so exciting. Instead, umpires will levy time penalties. With the pre-race realities of these latest lightweight America's Cup yachts, San Diego must also consider the shorter countdown favoured at Lyngby.

EQUESTRIANISM

Star attraction is unlikely starter

By JENNY MACARTHUR

MILTON, the most popular show jumper since Sir Harry Llewellyn's Foxhunter, is unlikely to compete at this year's Royal International Horse Show, which takes place from June 13 to 16 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Mr and Mrs Tom Bradley, the owners of the brilliant grey - who produced one of the most emotional scenes of the show last year when he and John Whitaker won the Midland Bank championship for the King George V Gold Cup - would prefer him to compete at the Aschen Nations Cup Show, which takes place immediately after Birmingham.

"We haven't ruled out the International but I think he probably won't go", Mrs Bradley said yesterday. The query over Milton's presence is a disappointment which the show could well do without. Earlier this year its future had looked uncertain after the withdrawal of a leading sponsor. It was saved, at the eleventh hour, when the organisers, Alan Pascoe Associates, the new owners of British Equestrian Promotions (BEP), secured underwriting from an unnamed source, who made up the £130,000 shortfall in the budget.

Midland Bank is sponsoring the show on the Saturday, including the King George V Gold Cup, but the Queen Elizabeth II Cup, now to be held on the Sunday afternoon to suit television, is still unsponsored. Despite its financial difficulties - the prize-money is slightly lower this year - the show has had little difficulty in attracting the top riders. John Whitaker, even without Milton, is well placed to defend his title in the King George with either Henderson Grannusch or Gammon.

Others competing include his younger brother, Michael, David Broome, Harvey and Robert Smith, Liz Edgar, Janet Hunter, Nick Skelton and Joe Turt. The foreign entry, headed by the top Belgian rider, Ludo Philippaerts, the winner of the £20,000 Grand Prix last year, suggests some tense contests for prizes.

Although the Royal International has changed its venue five times since it started at Olympia in 1907, Sir Harry Llewellyn BT, the president of the show, is optimistic about its future at Birmingham. "It's the ideal place", Sir Harry, who won the King George V Gold Cup a record three times on Foxhunter, said yesterday.

BRIDGE

Britain's display is a heartening omen

By ALBERT DORMER

THERE was an encouraging omen for Great Britain at the Dublin Cup, 17-nation team tournament held this week in Bonn, and effectively the curtain-raiser for the European championships in Killarney next month.

Roman Smolok and Tony Sowter of the British team, supported by Barry Rigal and Peter Czerniewski, needed to win their final match comfortably to qualify for the final. When they failed to do so, the Hongkongers edged ahead only to lose the final to Poland.

By virtue of their excellent form over the last five years, coupled with their status as defending champions, the Poles

must be regarded as favourites for the Europeans; but the Great Britain selectors can heart from their team's performance, in view of the relative lack of match practice of their lead pair.

The finals of the Schools Cup, the premier nationwide event for schoolchildren, was held last weekend, and it resulted in a narrow win for Dulwich College ahead of Durham Johnston School and Haberdashers' Aske's. For all their excellent bridge tradition, it was Dulwich's first win in this event for nearly 20 years. The Midlands and North teams of Mary Lawrence and Michael Dignea were the heat winners in the Silver Plate regional finals.

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Barcelona wary of English style in Rotterdam final

United can rise to the occasion

From STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, ROTTERDAM

MANCHESTER United are about to remind a global audience and Barcelona in particular of the English game once feared on the Continent. Apart from last summer's World Cup final, it has not been seen there for six years, but tonight it could again be the dominant feature of a European final.

Memories of domestic power abroad have been partially erased during England's exile. The relevant statistics, therefore, are worth refreshing. Until 1985, when the ban was imposed, a British club had reached a final in every season for two decades and had won a trophy every year since 1975.

Moreover, 13 different English representatives have won a continental competition. On the eve of the Cup Winners' Cup final here, it was significant that Barcelona's manager and captain should both choose voluntarily to express their admiration for the traditional style so foreign to their own nature.

"The nicest thing about the English game is that, no matter what everybody else does tactically, they don't adapt much," Johan Cruyff said. "They play their own way. That's what makes their teams so special. That's what makes them so dangerous. That's why they cause so many problems over here."

José Ramón Alexanco, aged 34, is at the same advanced stage of his career as the United leader, Bryan Robson, and he recalled dispiriting experiences. "I've got bad memories of British teams," he said, "because, by and large, they've beaten us. They always give us a hard physical game."

The left back has been recalled after a month's absence to protect Barcelona in the air at set-pieces. Their defence, commanded by the elegant Koeman, will be relieved if Pallister fails to

recover from a thigh strain. A late decision will be made and United's tallest representative is expected to play.

Alexanco believes that Barcelona may be forced, for safety's sake, to sacrifice their own adventurous notions, especially as Stoichkov, their enterprising Bulgarian forward, is unlikely to be fit.

Conversely, Alex Ferguson states that his United players have already learned lessons and developed. Collectively, they have gathered momentum and belief in a manner similar to Aberdeen, whom he led to victory in the competition eight years ago, and also to England during the World Cup finals in Italy 11 months ago.

Aberdeen, after opening with a goalless draw in Albania, beat Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals and Real Madrid in the final.

United's growing optimism is epitomised by Hughes. Out of sorts and dropped against Pecsi Munkacs at the beginning of the tournament, he ends a season in which he was voted the player of the year by his peers by spreading unease throughout his former colleagues.

Nando, aged 23, the expected shadow to Hughes, describes him as "a typical British forward, strong, aggressive and a handful". He admits he has never before faced such an opponent.

Barcelona's uncertainty at the back is sure to be enhanced by the loss of Zubizarreta. The national goalkeeper, suspended with Amor, a defensive midfielder player, will probably be replaced by Busquets, aged 23 and yet to appear for the first team. Cruyff deliberately chose not to introduce him at Cadix, where Barcelona lost 4-0 last Saturday.

Barcelona, nine points clear with four fixtures left, have won the Spanish league title



Dutch master: Cruyff, the manager of Barcelona, takes his team's final training session before the final

European hopes of English clubs rest with supporters

By JOHN GOODBODY

ROBERT Atkins, the minister for sport, yesterday warned that the participation of English football clubs in European competitions depended on the "continued good behaviour" of their supporters.

Speaking on the eve of the European Cup Winners' Cup final between Manchester United and Barcelona in Rotterdam, Atkins said: "Let Rotterdam be a good new watershed for English football and its followers."

Almost 20,000 United supporters, more than the number that watched England during the 1990 World Cup, are expected in The Netherlands for the first European final involving an English club

since the Heysel stadium disaster in 1985, when 39 Juventus supporters died in rioting.

Although Manchester United did not sell all their 15,000 tickets, many supporters are travelling to The Netherlands without tickets. Only about 1,000 left England yesterday with the remainder expected to travel today.

More than 200 coaches and 12 charter flights will be transporting supporters. Almost everyone crossing by sea will be going through Dover because the main ferry companies operating from Hull, Felixstowe and Harwich have had a policy of refusing to carry groups of young men

because football supporters have been involved in a series of violent incidents on boats in recent years.

Malcolm George, assistant chief constable of Greater Manchester Police, who is in Rotterdam, said yesterday: "There is a lot riding on this game. In policing terms, things have gone well in the previous rounds and so general support for United has the rest of the season."

About 1,000 police will be deployed outside and 600 private guards inside the Feyenoord stadium for the match. Hans Sloop, a police spokesman in Rotterdam, said: "We are ready for anything."

Wimbledon share with Palace

By LOUISE TAYLOR

CRYSTAL Palace and Wimbledon are to share Selhurst Park from the start of next season. The union appears to be permanent, but it remains to be seen whether the two will remain at the ground.

The clubs, who are both in the first division, have signed a seven-year contract and could move together to a purpose-built stadium by 2000. Wimbledon will pay an annual rent of £40,000 to Palace, who own Selhurst Park, but Sam Hammam, their managing director, said yesterday that, in the long term, he would prefer to build a new ground. Ron Noades, the chairman of Palace, is inclined towards redeveloping Selhurst Park.

Hammam said: "The beauty of the whole deal is that it is of paramount importance to both clubs in implementing the Taylor Report. The crux of the matter is that if we were not allied, there would be no chance of either

of us affording the major stadium we will need to maintain successful teams in any superleague."

Hammam is hoping to persuade Palace to vacate Selhurst Park, nine miles from Wimbledon's present ground at Plough Lane, and move to a new stadium at Beddington, on the border of the boroughs of Croydon and Merton, which is equidistant from the clubs.

"We have a minimal notice clause, which means we could leave Selhurst very quickly, but ideally we would like Palace to share a new ground. We are going to put all our efforts into convincing Merton Council to award us planning permission," he said. "We will also be convincing Palace that we can jointly build something better than Selhurst - which should not be difficult."

Noades has different ideas. "We want to create a ground that is as good as Highbury and that would be a World Cup venue. Whether that is

Selhurst or elsewhere will be determined over the next six to nine months.

"After that period, we would commit ourselves to building a double-decker stand with a capacity of 9,200 at the Holmesdale Road End of Selhurst Park, and if that begins we are here for keeps. After all, Selhurst is bigger than Anfield."

Palace previously shared with Charlton Athletic, who return to The Valley next season. Noades said: "Charlton never made the most of their opportunities here."

That will all change with Wimbledon's arrival. The clubs have already made arrangements to share one set of stadium staff, the box office, club shops, catering and perimeter advertising. As time progresses, they could also pool their promotions and marketing departments. As Hammam put it: "We are allies, not lodgers." By sharing, Palace and Wimbledon will be eligible for a joint grant

of up to £4 million for ground improvements from the Football Trust, as opposed to a £2 million ceiling imposed on individual clubs.

If the move to Beddington - a disused sewage works that is presently owned by the Thames Water Authority - takes place, it would cost a total of approximately £17 million to buy and develop the site. However, Wimbledon could expect to make up to £12 million on the sale of Plough Lane.

Earlier this season Hammam invested £800,000 in buying out a Merton council covenant restricting the site to sporting, recreational and leisure purposes, but yesterday he said that there would be no immediate sale.

"There is no point selling Plough Lane until we finally know where we are going, and that is a few years down the line," Hammam said. "Next season, both Wimbledon and Palace will use Plough Lane for reserve and youth matches."

Injured back forces Becker to pull out

ROME (Reuters) - Boris Becker was returning home to Germany yesterday to consult his doctor about the back injury that threatens to ruin his year. Becker, the world No. 2, pulled out of the Italian Open tennis championships hours before his first-round match against Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, suffering from painful back muscles.

"My whole back is pretty bad at the moment. I am flying to Munich this afternoon to see my doctor, but at this stage I don't know how bad the injury is," Becker said.

This setback came 24 hours after Becker started working with his new coach, Tomas Smid. Smid has taken over from the German Davis Cup captain, Nikkí Pilić, who was unable to devote sufficient time to Becker.

Becker has not played a complete set for eight days and is running out of time to prepare sufficiently for the French Open, starting on May 27.

Andre Agassi, of the United States, is the only player among the world's top five left in the draw.

Sponsorship breaks record

By KEITH MACKLIN

THE Rugby Football League yesterday unveiled, at the annual awards presentation by Stones Bitter in Bradford, the championship and premier-ship backers, a record sponsorship that will yield £1.8 million over four seasons from 1992-3 and so double the previous high.

The existing deal, which ends in 1991-2 and is worth £775,000 for the season, will be followed by a four-year sponsorship which will finish in 1995-6, the League's centenary year, when £800,000 is being set aside to support a

number of centenary events. Rodney Walker, the director of public affairs, said: "The board of directors is already planning the centenary celebrations, and one of the recommendations is to launch a centenary charity trust concentrating on the development of the game at domestic and international levels."

Wigan were named Team of the Year for the third successive season and received a cheque for £44,000 as championship winners. Salford were given £20,000 as second division champions,

Cash interests colour the Sunday vote

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CASH outvoted cricket arguments at Lord's yesterday, when the first-class counties agreed to turn over the Refuge Assurance League to the commercial gimmicks of coloured clothing and white balls but rejected proposals to refine the Sunday game by staging fewer but longer matches.

The special meeting of the full Test and County Cricket Board voted by a "substantial majority" to retain the existing formula in which every club plays each of the others once, over 40 overs per side.

But in a move that will be greeted with horror in traditionalist circles, they resolved that Sunday cricket, as from next year, will be identified by full-coloured flannels, probably with either names or numbers of the players on their shirt-backs.

A working party, under a chairman yet to be named, is being set up to investigate the "exact extent" of the colours and to conduct experiments with white balls, for which the two leading manufacturers of English cricket balls, Dukes and Reader, are being asked to provide prototypes.

Once the clubs had decided to stay loyal to a format that has an army of critics among players, coaches and, if the board's own survey is to be believed, county members, it made a certain sense to adopt these Australian ideas, if only as final proof that the game as played on Sundays bears little, if any, relation to that which is played on the other days of the week.

The counties speak of the attraction to television of coloured outfits, and of the potential appeal to a new, young audience brought up on the gaudy spectacle of tele-

vised American sport. They have a point.

Not for the first time, however, they have put narrow, local interests before the wider good of the English game in refusing to accept the recommendations of the board's cricket committee, whose members must now be wondering why on earth they continue to devote their spare time to the improvement of our cricket when the clubs are only interested in the improvement of their bank balance.

The cricket committee put forward a scheme with much merit, centred on the splitting of the clubs into two leagues of nine for Sunday matches of 50 overs duration. Free Sundays would then have been used for championship matches or, maybe, Benson and Hedges Cup games.

Its arguments were that the Sunday game had become counter-productive to players' techniques and motivation and that its appeal had, in any event, waned with television, sponsors and the public, so that a greater variety of more authentic cricket would now be beneficial.

Sadly, such logic was lost on the clubs, which continue to believe that the devil they know is preferable to anything that requires a change of emphasis in marketing.

The reds of Lancashire playing the yellows of Hampshire, with white balls, black sight-screens and David Gower with a No. 3 on his back, might fleetingly be a winning novelty. It will do nothing, however, for the standard of Sunday cricket, which one might have imagined to be everyone's priority.

West Indians win, page 38

Players' scheme under scrutiny

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) is to hold an extraordinary committee meeting to discuss further the proposals of England squad players to launch a national promotion campaign next season. The meeting, on June 8, will precede a scheduled gathering of the four home unions, when representatives seek a common interpretation of the game's amateur regulations.

Details of the players' proposals - to raise £2 million from eight leading sponsors, over half of which would go to the promotion of rugby union and approximately 15 per cent from non-rugby-related activities might be left for distribution among the players - were not available for study before the RFU's last full committee meeting, on May 3. However, that meeting did approve, in principle, the players' objectives while asking for appropriate safeguards to be worked out.

In the light of that approval the players' commercial advisers, the Parallel Media Group (PMG), will be meeting this week the RFU's eight existing elite sponsors, who will be offered first refusal on the eight £250,000 packages granting status as an Official Sponsor of English rugby.

"In the course of a week we have approached, or been approached by, 14 other companies, all of them big brand names," Robert Dodds, managing director of PMG's Broadcast Innovations, said. "Both the players and their advisers believe that those companies that already support, by their sponsorships, the RFU, should receive the first opportunities to join the promotional campaign. Should those companies feel

that they cannot make a further investment, however, there is considerable confidence that others will wish to become part of a campaign which, in British terms, is entirely novel in the context of any sport."

The RFU decided to call its extraordinary meeting after the executive committee met last Friday. It was decided then that a more comprehensive paper should be prepared by the working party of RFU committee men and players, which is likely to embrace some of the safeguards called for earlier this month, so that the full committee should be better informed when they discuss the promotional campaign once more.

Suggestions that the full committee was, in some way, railroaded into a precipitate decision on May 3 may be wide of the mark if all that happened was an acceptance, in principle, of recommendations of its own working party. "The players have been extremely responsible about talking over a complex set of amateur regulations," Peter Yarranion, the RFU senior vice-president, said.

"It has been a most difficult area and continues to be. The players thought the right thing to do was approach the sponsors who support the game first. After that they can go elsewhere, providing it does not compromise existing RFU arrangements."

The players' campaign, aimed at the under-21s, with the theme of "Run with the Ball" and incorporating a rugby camp at Richmond during the period of the World Cup in October, requires considerable input from the RFU's own technical staff.

French put Eurosport back on air

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Eurosport, the satellite sport television channel, yesterday announced that it would be back on the air this week after the French station, TFI, agreed to replace Sky Television in the consortium running the company.

Sky was forced to drop out of the venture by the European Commission, leading to Eurosport going off television screens eight days ago.

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